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Borough of Lowestoft
and
Lowestoft Port Health Authority

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for 1938

REPORT
OF THE
Chief Sanitary Inspector
for 1938

LOWESTOFT :
Flood & Son, Ltd., The Borough Press



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Members of Committees—1938.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Vice-Chairman : MR. COUNCILLOR J. W. WOODROW.

Aldermen:

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A. EVANS, J.P.

Major G. F. SPASHETT, M.C., J.P..

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Mrs. G. M. HARRIS, J.P.

Councillors :

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Mr. W. J. CROFT

Mr. F. S. AYERS

Mr. G. T. HUME

Mr. W. BUCKLEY

Mr. J. KNIGHTS-JONES

Mr. H. BURTON

MISS MANN

Mr. S. E. CLARKE

Mr. W. MOBBS

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Chairman : Mrs. Alderman G. M. HARRIS, J.P.

Mr. Alderman EVANS, J.P.

Mr. Councillor W. MOBBS

„ „ SPASHETT, J.P.

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Mr. Councillor F. S. AYERS

Mrs. G. T. ATKINSON

„ „ S. E. CLARKE

„ H. W. BAYFIELD

„ „ J. K. JONES

„ W. BUCKLEY

Miss „ J. M. MANN

„ A. EVANS

„ W. E. HOLLOWELL

ISOLATION HOSPITAL SUB.-COMMITTEE

His Worship the Mayor : Dr. H. C. BARRACLOUGH, J.P.

Chairman : Mr. Alderman F. LARKE

Miss Councillor J. M. MANN

Mr. Alderman G. F. SPASHETT, J.P.

Mr. „ W. MOBBS

Mr. Councillor J. W. WOODROW

JOINT SMALLPOX AND QUARANTINE HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

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Chairman : Alderman MAJOR G. F. SPASHETT, M.C., J.P.

Mr. Alderman F. LARKE

Miss Councillor J. M. MANN

Rev. S. R. BONSEY

Mr. J. SLATER

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital and School Medical Officer :

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health for General Sanitary Administration and Port :

LAURENCE GIBSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare and for Schools :

SYBIL O. EDWARDS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and for Schools :

CLIFFORD L. DAWSON, L.D.S.

Obstetric Consultant :

MICHAEL W. BULMAN, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., M.C.O.G.

Public Analyst :

W. LINCOLNE SUTTON, F.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

A. ISHERWOOD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :

WM. HAWORTH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert Meat Inspector.

RAYMOND P. LONG, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert Meat Inspector.

FRANK W. BUCKLEY, C.R.S.I. (appointed 1st Nov., 1938).

Matron of Borough Isolation Hospital :

Miss D. P. FENN, S.R.N.

Combined Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Mrs. E. WHITROD (a) (b)

Miss W. LARGE (a) (c)

Miss M. SHIPPERBOTTOM (a) (b)

Miss A. ARBON (a) (b) (d)

Miss W. IRWIN (a) (b) (c) (d)

Municipal Midwives :

Miss E. VINCENT (a)

Mrs. A. THIRTLE (a)

(a) *State Certified Midwife*

(b) *General Hospital Certificate*

(c) *Fever Training*

(d) *Health Visitors Certificate*

Chief Clerk :

Miss C. E. ABBOTT

Clerical Staff for all Departments :

Miss D. GOULDBY

Miss P. RAYMENT*

R. TURNER

(Resigned 16/4/38)

Miss N. TURRELL

L. V. BAILEY

Miss E. LONG

Miss H. SISSEN

R. ROBINSON

(Commenced 6/4/38)

*Dental Attendant

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CONNAUGHT HOUSE,
LOWESTOFT.

*To His Worshipful the Mayor and to the Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Lowestoft.*

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for 1938, detailed in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health. The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector is appended.

Vital Statistics.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Borough for mid-1938 is 44,370, giving a reduction of 70 as against 390 in the previous year. The local birth rate has failed to maintain the high figure of 1937, being at 15.0 per 1,000 almost identical with that for the whole of England and Wales (15.1). The death rate at 11.4 (England and Wales 11.6) is unchanged from the previous year but the infant mortality rate at 62 per 1,000 live births has failed for the first time for some years to keep below the average rate for England and Wales (53). This increased infant mortality rate will be seen on analysis to have been caused by an increase in deaths from Congenital Debility, Premature Birth and Malformation.

Due to the complete absence during the year of real influenza, deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia (all forms) have been low. The tuberculosis mortality rate of 0.47 per 1,000 continue to show a steady decline and has now reached a figure less than half the average rate for the decade 1921-30. The relative proportion of deaths from degenerative and involutional causes in the higher age groups does however indicate a continuous tendency to gradual ageing of the total resident population.

Infectious Disease.

The local incidence of serious infectious disease has again been light, a striking feature being the continued infrequency of diphtheritic illness in the borough. Scarlet fever has also been fairly low in incidence and the most important infection during the year has been whooping cough, causing the loss of five child lives, three of which were under one year. The last named must now be accepted as the most dangerous existing zymotic disease by reason both by its mortality and from lung damage causing residual disability.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The domiciliary service of midwives under the control of the local supervising authority, established by direction of the Midwives Act, 1936, has now been in operation for over a year and the local scheme

has, while interfering as little as possible with existing interests, provided an adequate service for attendance upon lying-in women in their homes both as midwives and as maternity nurses. There is locally no increased call by prospective mothers for the provision of hospital accommodation for normal confinement which is recorded in most areas of the country.

The greatly improved facilities for maternal and child welfare provided by the new premises in South Lowestoft is reflected by markedly increased figures of attendances by children and mothers. These results should encourage the child welfare authority to consider improvements in the convenience and attractiveness of the centres in the other two areas of the town.

Slum Clearance.

During the year thirteen individually unfit houses were made the subject of demolition orders and one clearance area containing two houses was confirmed.

Lowestoft Redevelopment Area No. 1.

After an enquiry held by the Ministry of Health into objections, the compulsory purchase order of properties in the Beach Area which were required for the purpose of redevelopment has, since the close of the year, been confirmed with only minor alterations from the representations.

Overcrowding.

After reviewing the possibility of purchasing vacant property in the borough your Council had under consideration at the close of the year a plan for the building of a number of 1-2 and 5-6 bedroom houses arranged in pairs for the relief of the families of exceptional size which form the hard core of overcrowding, together with the rehousing of smaller families displaced from demolition areas.

Special thanks are again due to the Chairmen and Members of the Committees associated with the Health Department and to the voluntary helpers who have continued to afford willing assistance at the weekly welfare centres. I have also to express my indebtedness to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Deputy and Assistant Medical Officers and to the staffs of the Health Department and Isolation Hospital for their competent and loyal assistance.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

VICTOR R. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1938.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
Live Births— Legitimate	638	314	324		
Illegitimate	26	10	16		
Total	<u>664</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>340</u>		
				Lowestoft	<i>Comparative figures for England & Wales</i>
Birth-Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	....	....	....	15.0	15.1
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
Stillbirths—	24	13	11		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	....	....	....	34.8	38.7
Deaths—	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
	508	263	245		
Death-Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	....	....	....	11.4	11.6
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age—					
All infants per 1,000 live births	....	....	....	62	53
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	....	....	....	58	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	....	....	....	154	—
Deaths from Puerperal Causes—				<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</i>	
Puerperal Sepsis	....	....	0	0.00	0.86
Other Puerperal Causes	....	....	1	1.51	2.11
Totals			1	<u>1.51</u>	<u>2.97</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	....	82	
„ „ Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	Nil	
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	5	
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....	....	....	1	
„ „ Tuberculosis (all forms)	....	....	....	21	

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (including foreshore)	....	....	....	(Acres)	5,495
Population at 1931 Census	....	....	....	....	41,768
Population at mid-1938 estimated by Registrar-General					44,370
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at December, 1938 (estimated)	....	....	....	....	11,830
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	£253,361
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....		£975 18s. 10d.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CLIMATE.

Lowestoft stands on the most easterly point in the British Isles and shares with the coastal region of East Anglia a very small rainfall and a record of sunshine much above the average for the whole country. The Borough is divided into two portions by a harbour created from Lake Lothing, from which the sea frontage of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles rises at each end with natural cliffs, rather higher at Gunton in the north than at Pakefield in the south. The town is particularly fortunate to possess a large number of natural parks and open spaces available to the public, which must contribute greatly to the health and physical fitness of the inhabitants by providing facilities for outdoor activity and recreation.

The climate is invigorating by reason of the large proportion of sunshine and fresh breezes, and the low rainfall combined with an almost complete absence of fog and atmospheric pollution permits full participation in the health-giving properties of Sun and Air.

The following meteorological summary is afforded by courtesy of the Meteorological Observer. From the observations of the prevailing winds it will be noted that any reputation for undue prevalence of easterly winds is hardly warranted, since the proportion of such is fairly low except in the early months of the year.

METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Rainfall	....	....	....	....	18.76 inches.
Highest recorded Barometric Readings	30.766	April	11th.		
Lowest recorded Barometric Readings	28.828	June	10th.		
Highest temperature in the shade	78	June	25th and Sept. 13th.		
Lowest temperature in the shade	....	23	December 21st.		
Total amount of sunshine	....	1664.8	hours.		
Number of sunless days	....	....	55.		
Mean annual temperature	....	50.6.			
Mean maximum temperature	....	56.8.			
Difference from average	....	....	+1.3.		
Number of days on which rain fell		154.			

PREVAILING WINDS DURING 1938.

One Reading per day

TOTAL OBSERVATIONS

			N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
January	....	....	1	—	2	2	9	8	5	3
February	....	....	4	6	3	1	3	8	1	2
March	....	....	1	1	1	2	6	12	5	3
April	....	....	7	2	—	—	—	3	5	12
May	....	....	5	6	—	4	7	4	2	3
June	....	....	—	2	—	4	5	6	7	6
July	....	....	2	—	2	1	3	5	13	4
August	....	....	5	4	1	1	3	3	5	7
September	....	....	1	3	—	2	6	7	6	3
October	....	....	3	—	—	2	1	14	8	3
November	....	....	—	—	—	1	3	17	4	4
December	....	....	1	1	4	3	6	5	7	3
<i>Totals</i>	....		30	25	13	23	52	92	68	53

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Chief Industries in the Area.

The nature of the main modes of employment in the Borough are as follows :—Fishing ; Food Preserving and Canning ; Distributive Trades ; Motor Coach Body Building ; Artificial Silk ; Railway Service ; Hotels and Boarding Houses ; Local Government Work ; Motor Accessories ; Shipbuilding and Repairs ; General Engineering ; Building and Contracting ; Timber Imports and Saw-Milling ; Laundry ; Road Transport ; Net Making ; Hospitals ; Theatres, Picture Palaces and Entertainments ; and Printing.

Extent of Unemployment in the Area.

Based on an estimated population over 18 years of 14,885 for the year ending July, 1938 the figures of unemployment kindly supplied by the Manager of the local Employment Exchange for each month at the date nearest the mid-point gives monthly percentages of unemployed as follows :—

		%			%
January	..	19.7	July	..	10.0
February	..	19.7	August	..	12.9
March	..	22.8	September	..	15.3
April	..	19.5	October	..	13.5
May	..	16.2	November	..	11.7
June	..	11.3	December	..	13.6

It will be seen from the average percentage of unemployment (15.5%) that the Borough continues relatively depressed industrially for a town in the southern half of England. Also compared to other areas a higher proportion of unemployment is seasonal, with a high rate from January to April and a lower rate from July to November. Variability in the incomes of wage earners seasonally employed must militate against the economical family budgeting more easily effected where employment is regular and reasonably secure throughout the year.

Any Evidence, Statistical or otherwise, that Unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the Health or Physique of Children or Adults.

Reliable evidence of such is extremely difficult to obtain, and none can be produced relating specifically to the influence of unemployment existing at a given time. Where working-class wages in an area are relatively low from industrial depression poverty and hardship are determined by the number of dependents in the family group and their food requirements. It is certain that the local industrial depression was increased during the last year and, particularly in the fishing industry, where a family is numerically fairly large hardship may be almost be as great where a wage earner is employed as when he is on

unemployment relief. It is certain that the mother of such a family usually makes the greatest sacrifice. Hence the recent rise in the number of deaths from congenital weakness and prematurity raises the possibility that expectant mothers may lower their own health through self-deprivation of essential foodstuffs, with deleterious effects on the nutrition of the unborn child. Physiologically the needs of an expectant mother should be looked upon as equal to between one and a half and two units. However, it is possible that expectant mothers might hold the mistaken view that such was selfish, since a child prior to birth is seldom considered a separate entity with its own needs. Certainly application for nutritional assistance in the form of free milk is infrequent prior to relatively late in pregnancy or actual childbirth. The valuable provision of nutritional assistance together with other social agencies must undoubtedly contribute to the recently lowered infant mortality rates in the whole first year of infant life, but in the absence of application by expectant mothers the present provisions may not always prevent some infants born weakly from failing to survive the first month of life. The certified causes of infant death are analysed in the section on infant mortality.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the population at the middle of 1938 is 44,370; this figure is used in calculating all birth, marriage and mortality rates for the area.

The above intercensal estimate gives a reduction of population by 70 from the figure for the previous year. As after adjustment for inward and outward transfers the live births exceed the deaths by 156—a "natural" increase of population, the estimated fall in population must be ascribed to an adverse balance by migration from the area of 226 persons.

Marriages.

The number of marriages and rate per 1,000 (of persons married) for the past ten years for the area was as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
<i>Number</i>	364	370	344	355	344	420	451	448	451	465
<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>	16.1	16.4	16.7	16.6	16.2	19.0	20.1	20.0	20.3	20.9

It will be seen that the marked increase in the local number and rate of marriages since 1934 continues to be maintained. The marriage rate of 20.9 for Lowestoft compared with a figure of 17.5 for England and Wales for the year.

Births.

The number of live births registered during the year, corrected for transfers, was 664, of which 324 were male and 340 were female ; of the total, 26 (3.9 %) were illegitimate births.

The birth rate for the year was 15.0, a figure almost identical with that for England and Wales (15.1) ; the rate for the 148 Smaller Towns of comparable population was 15.4. The exceptional birth rate of 16.0 for 1937 has not been maintained but the rate for the year still exceeds the low rates for the four years 1933-36. The following table compares the birth-rates for England and Wales, the smaller (comparable towns), and Lowestoft for the last ten years.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
<i>England and Wales</i>	16.3	16.3	15.8	15.3	14.4	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.1
<i>Smaller Towns</i>	16.0	16.2	15.6	15.4	14.5	15.0	14.8	14.8	15.3	15.4
<i>Lowestoft</i>	14.5	16.9	16.9	15.8	13.7	14.6	14.4	14.1	16.0	15.0

Notification of Births Act.

The following table indicates the number of notified births in the various wards during the year, together with the ward distribution of stillbirths and infant deaths :—

WARD	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Stillbirths</i>	<i>Infant Deaths</i>
North	138	4	10
South	234	12	14
East	84	1	6
West	125	6	9
Oulton Broad	89	1	2
	670	24	41

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in the Borough in 1938 was 475. Inward transfers amounted to 70, of which 39 occurred at Lothingland House Infirmary ; after deducting the outward transferable deaths of non-residents the net total was 508 consisting of 263 males and 245 females, against a figure of 507 for 1937.

The crude death rate was 11.4 per 1,000 the same as in 1937 ; the death rate for England and Wales for the year was 11.6, and the rate for 148 smaller towns (with population from 25,000 to 50,000) was 11.0. To make adjustments for local age and sex distributions the Registrar-General supplies an Area Comparability Factor of 0.97 which, applied to the above crude death rate for Lowestoft, gives an adjusted local death rate for the year of 11.06.

Causes of Death.

The causes of death are given in this table supplied by the Registrar-General :—

Causes of death						M.	F.	Total
All Causes						263	245	508
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2.	Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
5.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
6.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	—	3	3
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	9	11	20
10.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
11.	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	..	..	40	42	82
14.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	..	..	..	..	12	13	25
16.	Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	57	62	119
17.	Aneurysm	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
18.	Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	..	12	18	30
19.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	4	7	11
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	9	14	23
21.	Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	6	2	8
22.	Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	4	—	4
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
24.	Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	1	4	5
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
27.	Other Digestive diseases	..	..	..	..	8	2	10
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	..	..	..	2	6	8
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
30.	Other puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth and Malformation	..	..	..	..	11	16	27
32.	Senility	..	..	..	..	16	17	33
33.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	7	4	11
34.	Other violence	..	..	..	..	10	2	12
35.	Other defined diseases	..	..	..	..	37	11	48
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Special causes (included in No. 35 above)								
	Smallpox	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
	Polio-encephalitis	..	..	..	..	—	—	—

The chief causes of death in Lowestoft during the year will be seen to have been (i) Heart Diseases (119), (ii) Cancer (82), (iii) Senility (33), (iv) Other Circulatory Diseases (30), (v) Cerebral Haemorrhage (25), (vi) Pneumonia (all forms) (23), and (vii) Respiratory Tuberculosis (20). The most notable increase is a sharp rise in deaths from Cancer (67 in 1937). As a cause of death the absence of Influenza is remarkable (22 in 1937) and there has been a marked parallel decline in deaths from both Pneumonia (all forms) and Bronchitis. The conclusion may be drawn that the winter months were more favourable to the health of elderly inhabitants.

Senility as a certified cause of death continues to decline and to be replaced by Heart and Circulatory Diseases.

Apart from a rise in No. 31 (Deaths from Congenital Debility, Premature Birth and Malformation) to 27 from 18 in the previous year, which is fully analysed in the infant mortality section, there was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year requiring special comment and no cause of sickness or invalidity has been specially noteworthy.

The age distribution of the deaths is shown in the following table, with the figures and rates of the last five years for comparison :

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
<i>Age Group</i>						
Under 1 year	27	23	22	28	33	41
1 and under 2	4	6	7	6	5	3
2 and under 5	3	13	9	5	5	3
5 and under 15	9	20	6	11	13	10
15 and under 25	19	15	17	20	10	20
25 and under 45	57	45	30	36	40	40
45 and under 65	115	110	121	114	125	117
65 and upwards	241	252	263	286	276	274
Total Deaths (all ages)	475	484	475	506	507	508
Death Rates ..	11.18	10.9	10.6	11.2	11.4	11.4

Zymotic Death Rate.

The Zymotic Death Rate during the year was 0.14, the rate for the last five years and the deaths from the scheduled zymotic diseases being given below for comparison.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Zymotic Death Rate ..	0.56	0.26	0.08	0.11	0.14
Deaths from :					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric, etc., Fever	—	2	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	1	—	1	—
Diphtheria	12	5	2	—	—
Measles	9	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	3	—	3	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)..	1	1	1	1	1
Total	25	12	4	5	6

Infant Mortality.

There were 41 deaths of infants under one year finally assigned to the Borough by the Registrar General, which gives an infant mortality rate of 62 per 1,000 live births ; the rate for England and Wales was 53 and for comparable smaller towns 51.

The following table gives the infant mortality figures for Lowestoft since 1919 :—

Year	Live Births	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)		
			Lowestoft	England & Wales	Smaller Towns
1919	791	51	64	89	—
1920	1,252	80	63	80	80
1921	1,118	77	68	83	84
1922	980	72	73	77	—
1923	981	54	53	69	69
1924	880	52	61	75	71
1925	785	31	39	75	74
1926	781	56	71	70	67
1927	777	39	50	69	68
1928	717	45	63	65	60
1929	658	30	45	74	69
1930	765	34	44	60	55
1931	698	35	50	66	62
1932	674	39	58	65	58
1933	585	27	46	64	56
1934	649	23	35	59	53
1935	645	22	34	57	55
1936	631	28	44	59	55
1937	709	33	47	58	55
1938	664	41	62	53	51

It will be noted that the local infant mortality rate, though still not unfavourable, fails for 1938 to hold its usual superiority to that for England and Wales. Examination of the following table, summarising the certified causes and ages at death, will provide information as to the period of infant life where any increase of mortality occurred:—

	Under 1 month				Over 1 mth but under 12 mhts.					
Certified Causes	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total over 4 weeks but under 1 year
Prematurity	14	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—
Inanition & congenital weakness	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalus or Meningocele	—	1	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	2
Other maldevelopments	1	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Haemorrhage Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute pericarditis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute intestinal obstruction	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Broncho pneumonia	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	4
Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	3
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Accidental suffocation	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	18	5	4	1	28	5	3	2	3	13
Comparative figures for 1937	10	3	2	1	16	6	3	6	2	17

The above table shows that the infant mortality at ages from 1-12 months continued favourable at a figure of 13 which included two deaths from congenital malformation. The most regrettable feature in this group is the loss of three children from whooping cough and the possible factor of this infection in five deaths from other respiratory causes.

It is in the group of deaths during the first four weeks from birth—the neo-natal deaths—that any undue rise over previous years will be found. This group contains, apart from the losses due to the accidents

or infections of the newborn, cases of infants who either from congenital defect or by lack of vitality are unable to maintain life separate from the mother. It will be seen that of the 28 deaths in this group 18 occurred during the first week of life and that in 17 cases death was ascribed simply to prematurity or congenital weakness.

The quarterly distribution of the infant deaths showed a marked variation, the numbers being 19, 12, 4 and 6 for approximately equal numbers of births. The one definite factor causing the increases in the first two quarters was prematurity due to multiple pregnancy, there being seven deaths of 20 twin children born in this period. Actually in the whole year 12 twin births occurred giving an incidence much above expectation of 1 in 56 pregnancies. The birth of twins is almost always associated with prematurity and such occurrences were grouped largely in the first few months of the year when the risk of non-survival is highest. Of the 24 twin children born in the year one was stillborn and seven failed to survive one month. Apart from this factor there was a definite rise in the rate of infants dying within four weeks from birth due to defective vitality.

Stillbirths.

There were 24 stillbirths finally assigned to the Borough, 13 male and 11 female, all being legitimate. The stillbirth rate was 0.54 compared with a rate of 0.60 for England and Wales, the rate for the smaller towns being 0.48. The number of notified stillbirths and the rate per 1,000 total births for each of the last ten years is given in the following table:—

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Total Live Births	658	765	698	674	585	649	645	631	709	664
Still Births notified	33	26	28	31	31	27	25	29	21	24
Still Births per 1,000 total Births	47.8	32.9	38.6	43.9	34.6	39.9	37.3	43.9	28.8	34.8

In each stillbirth an enquiry to the attendant doctor or midwife for information as to the probable cause of stillbirth obtained the following probable causal factors:—

Impaired pre-natal health—

Falls during pregnancy	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Maternal toxæmia	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Intra uterine death	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Maternal cardiac disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Probable specific disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Poor maternal health	....	..	..	..	..	..	1
Placenta prævia	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hydramnios	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Placental disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Difficulties at birth—

Asphyxia due to breech presentation	..	..	..	2
Prolonged labour	..	..	..	2
Strangulation by cord or pressure on cord		..	..	2

Non-viability— 4

Causes unknown or information not obtainable— 2

Deaths from Cancer.

In Lowestoft during 1938 there were 40 deaths in males and 42 in females ascribed to this cause, making a total of 82. The age and sex distribution of such deaths for the last five years is given below :

Ages	1934		1935		1936		1937		1938	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
10-20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
35-40	1	5	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	1
40-45	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	2	1	—
45-50	2	1	2	2	—	2	1	—	1	3
50-55	8	4	2	1	1	5	2	1	4	5
55-60	1	6	5	3	5	5	4	4	6	2
60-65	3	3	5	5	4	6	4	3	2	10
65-70	5	5	8	8	7	5	6	9	9	7
70-75	8	2	8	5	5	6	8	7	5	8
75-80	3	1	1	3	3	3	4	6	7	4
80-85	2	2	1	4	2	2	1	1	3	—
85-90	—	—	2	3	—	3	—	2	—	—
90-95	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
95-100	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	35	31	34	36	30	40	30	37	40	42
	66		70		70		67		82	

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis was the cause of death in 21 cases finally assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General. Of these deaths, 20 were from tuberculosis of the respiratory system and one was due to other forms of tuberculosis.

The following statement shows the number of deaths assigned to the Borough for this disease during the past five years :—

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Tuberculosis Death Rate ..	0.83	0.70	0.82	0.59	0.47
Respiratory deaths ..	33	27	30	21	20
Non-respiratory deaths ..	4	8	7	5	1
	37	35	37	26	21

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality,
Maternal Death-rates, and Case rate for certain
Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

England and Wales,	
London, 126	Great
Towns and	148
Smaller Towns.	

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

			England and Lowestoft Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Admini- strative County
Rates per 1,000 Population						
Births :—						
Live	..	..	15.0	15.1	15.0	15.4
Still	..	..	0.54	0.60	0.65	0.60
Deaths :—						
All Causes	..	..	11.4	11.6	11.7	11.0
Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers	..	..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	..	..	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	..	..	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.03
Scarlet fever	..	..	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	..	..	0.11	0.03	0.03	0.02
Diphtheria	..	..	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.06
Influenza	..	..	0.00	0.11	0.10	0.11
Notifications :—						
Smallpox	..	..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	..	..	1.44	2.41	2.60	2.58
Diphtheria	..	..	0.05	1.58	1.85	1.53
Enteric fever	..	..	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.04
Erysipelas	..	..	0.65	0.40	0.46	0.39
Pneumonia	..	..	0.83	1.10	1.28	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births						
Deaths under 1 year of age	..	..	62	53	57	51
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age			1.5	5.5	7.8	3.6
Maternal Mortality :—						
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	0.00	0.89	} Not available	
Others	..	..	1.51	2.19		
Total	..	..	1.51	3.08		
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)						
Maternal Mortality :—						
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	0.00	0.86	} Not available	
Others	..	..	1.45	2.11		
Total	..	..	1.45	2.97		
Notifications :—						
Puerperal fever			17.44	14.42	18.08	12.51
Puerperal pyrexia						

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Staff.

Full particulars of the staff of the Authority are incorporated at the beginning of this report. The only changes were the appointment of one additional sanitary inspector to the post vacant at the commencement of the year and one change in the clerical staff.

Laboratory Facilities.

There was no change during the year in the arrangements for the analysis of food and drugs, chemical and bacteriological reports on water supplies, or the laboratory examination of bacteriological specimens.

At the Isolation Hospital Laboratory 159 swabs for diphtheria organisms and 51 specimens of hair for ringworm were examined, together with other examinations for the work of that hospital. The following specimens were examined at the laboratory of the East Suffolk County Council :—

Faeces or urine for enteric organisms ..	31
Widal tests	43

Ambulance Facilities.

The arrangements for such, unchanged during the year, continue to prove adequate for the area.

Nursing in the Home.

The Lowestoft Maternity and District Nursing Association continues to provide home nursing for a nominal fee. In addition this body continues to operate an agreement, entered into with the local authority under the Midwives Act, 1936, for the provision of a domiciliary midwifery and maternity nursing service adequate for the attendance upon three hundred confinements per year. The staff of the Association consists of a matron and 7 nurses, 3 of whom are engaged in full-time maternity work, 3 are full-time general nurses, and one is part-time a maternity and part-time a general nurse.

During the year the following number of visits were paid to all cases by the Association staff :—

To maternity cases	6214
To general cases	11,417

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee also continue to hold an agreement with this association for the nursing of necessitous cases of measles and whooping cough under the age of five years. The Association also pays nursing visits to notified cases of puerperal pyrexia and ophthalmia neonatorum.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following is a tabulated list of all treatment centres and clinics in the borough :—

SERVICE	SITUATION	DAYS OPEN
<i>Controlled by the Maternity & Child Welfare Committee</i>		
Infant Welfare Centres	North Lowestoft— Connaught House, 123, High Street.	Wednesdays & Fridays, 2.15 - 4.15 p.m.
	South Lowestoft— Welfare Centre, Southwell Road.	Mondays and Thursdays, 2.15 - 4.15 p.m.
	Oulton Broad— Council Chambers, Bridge Road.	Wednesdays. 2.15 - 4.15 p.m.
Antenatal Clinics	North Lowestoft— Connaught House	Second and Fourth Tuesdays in each month, 2 - 4 p.m.
	South Lowestoft— Welfare Centre.	First and Third Tuesdays in each month, 2 - 4 p.m.
<hr/> <i>Controlled by the Education Committee</i>		
Minor Ailment Treatment Clinics	*Connaught House,	Each morning from 9 - 10 a.m.
	*South Lowestoft Welfare Centre	Each school morning from 9 - 10 a.m.
	*Council Chambers Oulton Broad.	ditto
Dental Clinics	*†Connaught House.	Each afternoon 2 - 5 p.m. and alternate Saturday mornings.
	*†South Lowestoft Welfare Centre	Each morning 9-12.30 a.m. and alternate Saturday mornings.
Ophthalmic Clinic	*Connaught House.	Each Thursday morning 9.30 - 12 a.m.
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	*Connaught House	Every other Tuesday, 2 - 4.30 p.m.
<i>* Also available for pre-school children. † „ „ „ expectant mothers.</i>		
<hr/> <i>Controlled by the East Suffolk County Council</i>		
Tuberculosis Dispensary	Crown Street Hall, Lowestoft.	By appointment with the Tuberculosis Officer, County Hall, Ipswich.
Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre	Lowestoft & North Suffolk Hospital.	Women and Children : Tuesdays, 5 - 6 p.m. Fridays, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. Men : Tuesdays, 6 - 7 p.m. Fridays, 11.30 to 12.30 a.m.
<hr/> <i>Controlled by the Suffolk Mental Welfare Association</i>		
Occupation Centre for ineducable mentally defective children.	Mariners Score Hall	Daily morning and after- noon sessions (excepting Saturdays).

Any alterations during the year are detailed in the Maternal and Child Welfare section of this report.

HOSPITALS : PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

Borough Isolation Hospital, Rotterdam Road.

The staffing and accommodation has been unchanged during the year but building progress on the previously described block of twelve single cubicles was well ahead at the end of the year, while conversion of an existing block into domestic staff accommodation is being carried out, together with other minor structural alterations. These alterations and additions will bring the hospital to conform with the scheme submitted by the East Suffolk County Council to the Minister of Health under section 29 of the Local Government Act, 1929.

The final approved arrangement for the accommodation at the Lowestoft Borough Isolation Hospital of notifiable infectious diseases from the local sanitary authorities of a very considerable area in the northern section of East Suffolk commenced operation on the 1st April, 1938.

Voluntary Hospital with which the Local Authority has made arrangements for the admission of patients.

The Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital continued to provide four maternity beds, exclusive of labour beds, for institutional maternity cases. Forty-five cases were admitted during the year, of which twenty-four were admitted under the Local Authority's scheme which accepts responsibility for payment for the maintenance of mothers who are unable to meet the full cost of in-patient treatment.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The Borough of Lowestoft is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts and the Medical Officer of Health performs the duties of Medical Supervisor of Midwives.

Supervision of Midwives.

During 1938, notice of intention to practice was received from 16 Midwives. Of these, 6 were on the staff of the District Nursing Associations, 3 were in hospital practice, 1 was in Nursing Home practice, 4 were in private practice (of whom 1, domiciled outside the Borough, only practices occasionally within the area) and 2 were full-time municipal midwives.

Birth notifications were received from the following :—

	<i>Midwives' Cases</i>	<i>Maternity Nurses' Cases</i>
Staffs of the District Nursing Associations	221	136
Staff of the Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital	—	44
Private Nursing Homes	—	29
Municipal Midwives	125	33
Private domiciliary midwives	53	43
Cases notified by practitioners	—	30

The following notifications were received from Midwives under the rules of the Central Midwives Board :—

(a) <i>Sending for Medical Aid</i>	174
(b) <i>Notification of deaths—</i>	
<i>Mother</i>	—
<i>Infant</i>	10
(c) <i>Notifications of stillbirths</i>	11
(d) <i>Notification of having laid out a dead body</i>	1
(e) <i>Notification of a liability to be a source of infection</i>	13
(f) <i>Notification of artificial feeding</i>	10

Where puerperal pyrexia has occurred in the practice of a midwife, or other contact with a source of infection has occurred, the appropriate action continued to be taken for obtaining other nursing assistance for the case and the disinfection of the midwife's person and outfit. During the year it was not required to suspend any midwife for this or other reason, occasional precautionary disinfection alone being indicated. Supervision of the practice of midwives continued to be carried out in a spirit of co-operative and helpful surveillance.

During the year a strong encouragement was given to the wearing of masks by midwives during their attendance on the actual confinement. In addition to a talk to the local branch of the Midwives Institute a circular letter detailing the advisability of such precaution, together with a small supply of washable gauze masks, was afforded to each practising midwife in the area. It is to be hoped that the habit of using such may be established, particularly where instrumental delivery is performed or where any suspicion of sore throat (often of streptococcal nature) is present in an attendant. This useful and inexpensive measure has elsewhere been credited with contributing to a marked diminution in the incidence of puerperal pyrexia in midwifery practice.

Medical Aid.

The following table shows the nature of the emergencies for which medical aid was sought by midwives on 174 occasions :—

*Conditions of Mother.**(a) During Pregnancy*

<i>Albuminuria</i>	..	..	..	9
<i>Miscarriage</i>	..	..	..	7
<i>Varicose conditions</i>	..	..	..	11
<i>Antepartum haemorrhage</i>	..	..	..	1
<i>Swelling of legs</i>	..	..	..	2
<i>Other conditions</i>	..	..	..	13
				<hr/> 43 <hr/>

(b) During Labour.

<i>Torn perineum</i>	..	..	..	46
<i>Delayed or obstructed labour</i>	..	..	..	28
<i>Uterine inertia</i>	..	..	..	7
<i>Abnormal presentations</i>	..	..	..	6
<i>Post-partum haemorrhage</i>	..	..	..	2
<i>Retained placenta</i>	..	..	..	4
<i>Collapsed condition</i>	..	..	..	1
<i>Premature labour</i>	..	..	..	3
				<hr/> 97 <hr/>

(c) During Lying-in Period.

<i>Rise of temperature</i>	..	..	..	10
<i>Inflamed breast</i>	..	..	..	1
<i>Collapse</i>	..	..	..	1
<i>Subinvolution</i>	..	..	..	1
				<hr/> 13 <hr/>

Conditions of the Child.

<i>Discharging eyes</i>	..	..	..	11
<i>Birth deformities</i>	..	..	..	2
<i>Dangerous feebleness</i>	..	..	..	5
<i>Other conditions</i>	..	..	..	3
				<hr/> 21 <hr/>

Costs of Provision of Medical Aid.

Under the Midwives Act, 1918, the Local Authority is responsible for the payment of fees to doctors who may be summoned by midwives to give medical aid in cases of any emergency ; and the Authority has power to recover all, or part, of the cost from the patients, except in necessitous cases where the cost may be remitted.

During the year fees paid to private doctors amounted to £245 15s. 9d. The insurance scheme continued in force by which expectant mothers paid to the Authority a sum of 5/- and in return were absolved from any liability for the recovery of fees paid to medical practitioners called in under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918. The amount of such premiums received during the year was £44 19s. 6d., while a further sum of £31 6s. 6d. was recovered towards the sums paid by the Local Authority for medical aid rendered in response to such summonses by midwives.

Midwives Act, 1936.

The final approved scheme for the provision of an adequate domiciliary service of midwives in pursuance of the above Act came into operation in the Borough on the 30th July, 1937, and was described in detail in the last report. It will be remembered that such included provision for the utilisation of the services of the two local district nursing associations. The agreements entered upon between these two bodies and the local authority continue in operation unchanged and would therefore appear to have proved equitable.

In addition the scheme provided for the provision of three whole-time municipal midwives, the Corporation proceeding immediately with two appointments and holding the third post in reserve till the demand for services would justify its being filled.

During the first full year of operation the following cases have been attended by midwives under the scheme :—

Lowestoft District Nursing Association	..	334
Oulton	..	23
Municipal Midwives	.. ..	158

It will be seen that all parties to the scheme have been fully employed and that the number of cases attended have come fairly close to expectation. The Lowestoft Nursing Association has an additional agreement to take cases for the two municipal midwives during holidays, sickness or at emergency times.

Since the commencement of operation of the Act three certificates (one from a midwife in the employ of an association) have been voluntarily surrendered, while the one midwife continuing in regular private domiciliary practice in the area is also likely to retire with voluntary surrender of certificate at an early date. If this occurs there will thereafter be little domiciliary practice outside the scheme of the local authority, and whether a third municipal midwife will require to be appointed will depend on the respective bookings of the different parties to the scheme. Some free choice of midwife, though limited, does exist within the scheme and it is certain that for all expectant mothers in the area, whatever their income, an adequate domiciliary service for midwifery and maternity nursing has now been provided by the local authority. This ensures that sufficiently skilled attention can be provided for the conduct of a normal confinement in the home.

While every effort should be made to prevent confinement in unsuitable homes or in suitable homes when institutional treatment is necessary, it is essential to reassure the public as to the advantages and safety of domiciliary confinement under normal circumstances. For such the service of a well-trained, self-reliant and competent midwife is the first essential to which all other provisions are merely accessory, and the present arrangements would appear to ensure that in the area the aims of the Act are being achieved. The Ministry having been satisfied that an adequate domiciliary service had been provided, the Borough of Lowestoft (Prohibition of Unqualified Persons) Order came into force from the 1st April, 1938, prohibiting unqualified persons acting as maternity nurses for gain.

Hospital Lying-in Accommodation.

The Local Authority continues to accept responsibility for payment of maintenance in the maternity beds of the Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital on behalf of mothers who are unable to meet the full cost of such in-patient treatment. Cases are recommended for such admission because of probable complications or owing to unsuitable home conditions. In addition certain cases admitted in emergency owing to unforeseen complications also come under the scheme.

Each case is investigated by the Borough Treasurer's department to recover the whole or part of the cost according to family circumstances. During the year 1938 the Local Authority paid £170 2s. 0d. to the Hospital in respect of maternity cases, and the sum of £41 6s. 6d. was recovered from patients.

Home Helps in domiciliary confinements continue in certain necessitous cases to be provided. Sixteen applications were granted by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee during the year. In nine of these the full payments were made by the Local Authority, while in the other seven cases part payment was made by the parent.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

This combined service is now afforded on alternate weeks at Connaught House and Southwell Road Centres. Expectant mothers can also receive advice but not usually examination at any infant welfare session. The following is a summary of the attendances made:—

(a)	Total attendances made by expectant mothers	..	651
(b)	Average attendance of expectant mothers per session		13.3
(c)	Total number of expectant mothers who attended during the year	.. .. .	277
(d)	Percentage of total notified births and stillbirths represented by the number (c)	.. .. .	39.9

All abnormal findings at the ante-natal clinic are communicated to the person who will attend at the confinement.

The two municipal midwives attend such antenatal clinics each in their own district, except when prevented by attendance on a case. In this way a mother attending can keep in direct touch with the person who will see her through her confinement. In addition to the above antenatal supervision the Lowestoft District Nursing Association also holds evening weekly sessions on their premises, though without a medical officer, where their booked cases receive supervision by the midwives who will see them through their confinement. Cases there deemed to be requiring medical supervision may be referred to the antenatal clinic of the Local Authority or to a private medical practitioner.

Consultant Obstetric Opinion in Ante-natal Cases.

During the year a rearrangement was made of the method for securing an expert opinion in antenatal cases where factors unfavourable to normal labour were existent or suspected. The monthly consultant antenatal clinic, set up experimentally in the previous year, was found too infrequent for obtaining an expert opinion at a desired time and little use of it had been made by private practitioners. The arrangements now are that any case can be referred through the department either by the antenatal clinic or by a private practitioner for an appointment with Mr. Bulman any Thursday at the outpatient department of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, on terms and conditions identical with similar service for the East Suffolk County Council, or where a patient is unable to travel the consultant can come to Lowestoft. In necessitous cases the train fare can now be afforded by the local Maternity and Child Welfare Authority.

Consultant Obstetrician.

The services of a consultant obstetrician continued to be available during the year for calling out by any private medical practitioner for consultation in obstetric complications, but on no occasion during this year was application made for such service within the area of the Borough.

Maternal Mortality.

One maternal death, occurring during the year in an institution, was accredited to the Borough, which for 688 total births again gives a low maternal mortality rate. In a small area like the Borough of Lowestoft such rate for any one year has little statistical significance through liability to marked chance variation. Since the commencement of the present form of recording maternal deaths in 1926 the average annual maternal mortality for the borough has been low relative to the rate for the whole of England and Wales.

Infant Welfare Centres.

The attractive premises now provided in Southwell Road have caused a marked increase in the numbers of infants and toddlers presented during the year from South Lowestoft, which must have resulted in a greater amount of welfare work accomplished. The attendances during the year are summarised below :—

	<i>First Attendances</i>		
	<i>Infants (under 12 months)</i>	<i>Toddlers (1-5 years)</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Connaught House Centre	142	66	3486
Southwell Road Centre	153	94	3970
Oulton Broad Centre ..	48	16	1819
	<hr/> 343	<hr/> 176	<hr/> 9275

Two infant welfare sessions are now held each week at Southwell Road Centre in addition to two at Connaught House and one at Oulton Broad Centre.

The work of the infant welfare sessions continues to be concentrated on education and guidance in the nurture and hygiene of the child. Practically no medicaments are dispensed other than accessory foods and nutritional aids. Advice is also given in the many physiological deviations from normal health falling short of actual disease, while definite illness other than minor ailment or dental defects continues to be referred to the private medical attendant.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Service continues to acknowledge a large debt for the willing assistance of the voluntary workers who so regularly attend at each infant welfare centre. Without their assistance it would not be possible to give attention to the numbers of mothers and children attending these afternoon sessions.

Provision of Milk in Necessitous Cases.

During the year 186 necessitous cases received milk free of charge, the total amount supplied being 2,010 $\frac{1}{4}$ gallons of liquid milk and 141 lbs. of dried milk at an approximate cost of £233 8s. 7d. The grant of such nutritional assistance to expectant mothers or infants is determined by an income scale, identical with that of the County Council, applied to verified declarations of income. Certain other foods and nutritional aids were distributed free to necessitous cases.

Work of Health Visitors.

Five health visitors continued to be employed during the whole year, half of whose services were devoted to school medical work. In addition to staffing the ante-natal and infant welfare sessions the following visits were paid in connection with maternity and child welfare work in their respective districts :—

To expectant mothers ..	(1) First visits	267	(2)	Total visits	390
To children under 1 year of age	(1) First visits	670	(2)	Total visits	6,489
To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years				Total visits	7,683
				Total visits	<hr/> 14,562 <hr/>
Total Attendances at Welfare Sessions					374

Infant Life Protection (under Part I of the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932).

The Lowestoft Maternity and Child Welfare Authority administers these Acts, which provide for the supervision of all children under 9 years of age who are placed as foster children for reward apart from their parents.

Each of the health visitors continues as authorized home visitor for her particular area. At the end of the year nineteen persons were on the register as receiving children for reward, twenty children being under their care. Such children are visited more frequently than ordinary children in the area and 214 visits were paid during 1938. No legal proceedings were taken in any case during the year.

Orthopaedics.

Infant welfare cases requiring such treatment are referred either to the private practitioner or to the out-patient department of the Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital, where a consultant orthopaedic surgeon attends twice monthly. The Committee is represented on the recently-formed Suffolk Association for Cripples Welfare and it is to be hoped that both school children and pre-school children in Lowestoft requiring treatment will have full access to any complete orthopaedic scheme which may be formed in the County area.

Dental Treatment for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and for Pre-school Children.

The equivalent of one-eleventh of the service of the dental officer is allocated to maternal and child welfare. Inspections Clinics are held at each of the two dental centres on alternate Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. The following table summarises the work done during the year :—

	<i>Expectant or Nursing Mothers</i>	<i>Pre-school children</i>
Numbers who received treatment	50	126
Numbers made dentally fit ..	18	107
Numbers of treatments :—		
(a) fillings		
(i) in temporary teeth ..	1	68
(ii) in permanent teeth ..	64	2
(b) number of teeth extracted	201	281
(c) number of administrations of general anaesthesia ..	42	104
(d) number of attendances	58	148

The volume of such work, at present relatively small, is likely to increase gradually with appreciation by parents and expectant mothers of the facilities available.

Minor Ailments and Specialist Treatment of Pre-school Children at Centres.

Total attendances for minor ailments	624
,, ,, ,, aural treatment	28
,, ,, ,, ophthalmic treatment	4

Registration and Supervision of Nursing Homes.

The Borough of Lowestoft is the local supervising authority for the registration of nursing homes and the Medical Officer of Health is the inspecting officer. All such registered homes were visited during the year and found satisfactory. A friendly relationship exists with such premises and any potential liability to be a source of infection is usually quickly referred to the Health Department for guidance and any requisite action.

The staff of the health department are charged with the duty of reporting any premises which might be unregistered nursing homes. Any such could not operate undiscovered for any length of time in the area.

The following table gives the details of the registration during the year :—

(i)	Number of applications for registration during 1938..	..	—
(ii)	Number of Homes registered .. .. .	..	4
(iii)	Number of Orders made refusing or cancelling registration		—
(iv)	Number of Appeals against such Orders .. .. .	..	—
(v)	Number of cases in which such Orders have been—		
	(a) confirmed on appeal .. .. .	..	—
	(b) disallowed .. .. .	..	—
(vi)	Number of applications for exemption from registration ..	..	2
(vii)	Number of cases in which exemption has been—		
	(a) granted .. .. .	..	2
	(b) withdrawn .. .. .	..	—
	(c) refused .. .. .	..	—

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER.

The public supply from the Lowestoft Water and Gas Undertaking has been uniformly satisfactory during the year, both as regards quality and quantity. The average daily consumption equals 1,189,000 gallons, which is approximately 24.4 gallons per head per day.

The supply is derived from open lakes at Lound, whose source is shallow springs plus a certain amount of surface water from a limited catchment area, together with river water from the upper reaches of the Bure obtained from the Yarmouth undertaking. The water is subject to the natural purifying action of storage, then passes through a system of rapid filters, after which it is subjected to slow sand filtration. The whole supply is finally chlorinated by an up-to-date automatic plant. Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect the lakes and catchment area. Each month regular samples of the water are submitted by the Water Undertaking for chemical and bacteriological analysis by two independent analysts, whose reports are always available to the health department. Samples are also taken by the sanitary department for full confirmatory chemical and bacteriological reports at intervals, now fixed quarterly, at the instance of the local authority. A summary of the reports on these samples follows:—

The Chemical Results are stated in parts per 100,000

<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
Total Solids	31.5	29.0	39.0	42.0
Ammonia Saline.. ..	0.0164	0.0014	0.0010	0.0004
Ammonia Albuminoid	0.0098	0.0080	0.0088	0.0044
Chlorine	5.40	5.70	9.30	7.80
Nitrates	0.52	0.16	0.03	0.26
Nitrites	nil	trace	nil	trace
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	0.081	0.130	0.075	0.110
Hardness (temporary)	9.5	10.0	12.5	13.3
Hardness (permanent)	6.5	4.5	7.0	6.0
Hardness (total)	16.0	14.5	19.5	19.3
<i>Bacteriological.</i>				
Average No. of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates incubated at 20-22°C. for 3 days	4 per c.c.	182 per c.c.	2 per c.c.	16 per c.c.
Ditto on agar plates at 37.5°C. for 2 days	2 per c.c.	9 per c.c.	less than 1 per c.c.	5 per c.c.

B. Coli not found in 100 c.c. in any analysis.

Streptococci not found in 30 c.c. in any analysis.

The figures correspond closely with the reports made available by the Water Undertaking, and confirm that the supply is at all times pure and wholesome.

There were no new sources of public water supply during the year and no important extension of mains.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No important extension of sewerage or of the sewage disposal system was made during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Strict supervision is exercised in order to minimize pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Little remains of the original programme of privy conversion in the Oulton Broad area. Building operations on land beyond the present sewerage system tends however to increase the number of cesspools and septic tanks.

The following table indicates the conversions which have taken place during the period 1921—1938 :—

Year	Sinks Prov'd	Privies or pails Abolished	New W.C.'s Prov'd	Houses con- nected to Sewer	Gulleys Prov'd	Chambers Built	Vent Pipes	Cesspools Ab'lsd
1921	8	20	20	3	21	12	14	6
1922	12	21	21	8	20	15	16	2
1923	22	131	134	150	150	78	64	45
1924	23	130	139	157	139	167	127	91
1925	78	259	284	294	251	263	190	118
1926	41	126	126	134	135	133	101	42
1927	21	46	49	47	47	30	24	6
1928	7	12	12	20	18	25	20	10
1929	50	83	86	85	84	28	16	17
1930	9	19	7	33	20	27	21	17
1931	1	27	22	25	20	16	6	11
1932	2	5	3	20	8	37	18	16
1933	1	—	1	1	1	2	—	1
1934	2	2	8	10	8	19	9	9
1935	2	27	27	30	27	19	6	7
1936	1	—	1	5	4	9	1	4
1937	1	3	7	11	13	24	6	10
1938	3	—	3	7	8	14	4	5
Total	284	911	950	1133	974	918	643	417

In addition to the above, during 1938 three existing business premises were connected to the sewer necessitating the following works :—

Sinks prov'd	New W.C.'s prov'd	Gulleys prov'd	Chambers built	Vent pipes	Cesspools abolished
2	12	10	17	3	4

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) *Scavenging*.—There has been no change in the arrangements during the year.

(b) *Refuse Removal and Disposal*.—Galvanized covered ashbins are used for the reception of house refuse throughout the Borough. Forty-three of these were provided through the action of the sanitary inspectors during the year.

House refuse is removed weekly or more often when necessary, as in the case of the large hotels during the season. The contents of the few remaining earth closets and privies are removed at night, a mechanical vacuum tank being used for emptying all cesspools for which the Corporation have undertaken responsibility. Frequency of emptying varies in different cases.

The Acting Borough Surveyor, reports for 1938 :—

Tons of refuse removed	22,187
Tons of refuse destroyed by destructor	9,106
Tons of refuse tipped	13,081

From these figures it will be seen that a great part of the town's refuse is tipped. A sandy pit about a mile from the town is used for this purpose.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

This work was carried on as usual by the Sanitary Inspectors, who made 11,205 inspections of various kinds during the year as detailed below.

The following table shows the number of the various visits made :—

Ice-cream premises and barrows	154
Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928	231
Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915	
(Animal inoculation samples)	9
Water samples	8
Verminous and dirty houses	62
Places of entertainment	17
Privy conversions	9

Defects Found and Notices Served to Remedy.

In the course of the year 1,332 defects were discovered as a result of these inspections. 270 informal notices were served.

The Statutory Notices served, with resultant action obtained, are indicated in the table below:—

Act and Section	No. of Notices.	Complied with.	Out-standing
<i>Public Health Act, 1936</i> ..			
Section 39	22	15	7
Section 44	8	6	2
Section 45	1	1	—
Section 46	3	3	—
Section 56	7	4	3
Section 75	9	8	1
Section 93	23	17	6
<i>Lowestoft Corporation Act, 1934</i>			
Section 69	24	24	—
<i>Factories Act, 1937</i>			
Section 7	1	—	1
<i>Housing Act, 1936</i> ..			
Section 9	46	33	13
	144	111	33

The following table gives in detail the work carried out as a result of the above notices:—

Houses.

Dampness abated	155
Coppers or stoves repaired or renewed	56
Roofs repaired	60
Chimneys repaired	33
Walls repaired	185
Roof gutters and down spouts repaired	37
New galvanized iron dust bins provided	43
Ceilings repaired	30
Floors repaired	95
Yard paving repaired	34
Window sash cords repaired	49
Doors repaired	30
Sink waste pipes provided	7
Window frames repaired	70
Staircases repaired	10
New sinks provided	44

Separate water supply provided	..	..	..	..	1
Houses disinfested	..	..	..	..	9
Food stores provided	..	..	..	..	—
Wash-houses provided	..	..	..	..	—
Premises cleansed	..	..	..	..	8

Water Closets.

New w.c. pans provided	..	..	..	..	38
Walls repaired	..	..	..	..	19
Defective flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	12
W.C. seats provided	..	..	..	..	39
W.C. doors repaired	..	..	..	..	10
Ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	7
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	1
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	8

Drainage.

Drains unstopped and cleansed	..	..	..	..	86
Drains repaired or relaid	..	..	..	..	37
Gulleys provided	..	..	..	..	32
Chambers built	..	..	..	..	37
Vent shafts provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	9
Cesspools abolished	..	..	..	..	5
Inspection chamber covers repaired	..	..	..	..	9
Stoppers to raking arm of interceptor provided	..	..	..	..	6
Interceptors provided	..	..	..	..	4
Septic tanks provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	2

Miscellaneous.

Wells repaired	..	..	..	..	2
Accumulation of manure removed	..	..	..	..	1
Accumulation of refuse removed	7
Watercourses cleansed	2

Factories and Workshops.

Cleansed	3
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SHOPS ACTS.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is responsible for the inspection of shops under the Acts of 1912-1936. During the course of the year a total of 555 visits were made. Attention was paid to the question of ventilation, temperature and the sufficiency of sanitary conveniences provided. In one instance an additional w.c. was provided, while in a further case a w.c. in such a state as to be a nuisance was cleansed as a result of a verbal notice.

In two cases additional sinks were provided and in another case drains were unblocked.

No legal proceedings were required in respect of these provisions.

CAMPING SITES.

(1) Two sites in the area were used for camping purposes during 1938.

(2) Only one licence was issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the second site used for such purposes being the property of the Council.

(3) No accurate record was kept of the number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season 1938. 55 permits were issued to parties consisting of from 2 to approximately 100 individuals and during the period 28th July to 7th August, 1938, 28 of such parties were resident in the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Five observations were taken during the year.

In the event of a nuisance occurring according to the terms of the resolution previously set out, the Manager of the firm and the furnace-men were invariably interviewed. I think it may be stated that these steps have again had a satisfactory result.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The two publicly owned swimming baths in the Borough (1) North Denes (sea water), and (2) Oulton Broad (fresh water) were kept under supervision. The water in both baths is subject to chlorination. During the peak months of July and August samples were taken from each. The bacteriological reports on the first named were very satisfactory and came well within the permissible standards of purity for bath water. Those on the second named were on one occasion not so satisfactory and the attention of the appropriate department was drawn to the reports, together with the submission of suggestions by which improvement might be effected.

There are no privately owned swimming baths in the Borough.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

In this connection 11 houses were dealt with during the year, one belonging to the Council and 10 to private owners.

An efficient non-cyanide proprietary disinfesting preparation (Zaldecide) was used in each case and the work carried out by the staff of the Department.

No action was necessary with regard to the belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply of schools in the area continue sufficient and satisfactory, and are improved when occasion warrants.

A full report on school hygiene is found in the report of the School Medical Officer who is also Medical Officer of Health.

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools during the year on account of the prevalence of infectious disease.

Report on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1—INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ..	195	3	0
Factories without mechanical power ..	41	3	0
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	1	0	0
Total	237	6	0

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of defects.			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	3	3	0	0
Overcrowding (S. 2) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Sanitary con- { insufficient	8	4	0	0
veniences (S. 7) { unsuitable or defective	5	3	0	0
{ not separate for sexes .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other offences	6	6	0	0
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total	22	16	0	0

3—OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES.

NIL.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The following Table shows the number of dwellings occupied and unoccupied at the time of the Census 1931, and those which have been built and occupied from June, 1931 to December, 1938 :—

Census, 1931					Dwellings added and occupied from June, 1931 to December, 1938		
Ward	Structurally separate dwellings occupied	Vacant unfurnished dwellings	Dwellings with more than one occupier	Total dwellings occupied and vacant	By private builders	By Local Parlour type	Authority Non-Parlour type
North	2181	—	—	—	215	8	56
South	2558	—	—	—	734	—	108
East	1878	—	—	—	112	—	—
West	1808	—	—	—	89	—	33
Oulton Broad	1125	—	—	—	518	—	14
Total	9550	145	881	9870	1668	8	211

The number of new houses erected during the year was as follows :—

Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	170
(i) By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
(ii) By other Local Authorities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106

The following tabular statement supplies the information required by direction of Ministry of Health Circular 1728 :—

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	340
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	1041
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	..	..	..	..	31
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	106

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation)	325
2.— <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their officers	220
3.— <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i>	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	46
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	32
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	70
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	49
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	2
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4.—*Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	57
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..	57
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	452
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	8
*(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	42
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	326
<i>*The overcrowding relieved under Item (c) was due in 17 cases to the number of occupants being reduced by reason of deaths, marriages or the leaving of individual members of the family; 13 families have been rehoused by the Local Authority; 3 other families have found other accommodation suitable to their number of occupants and the remaining 9 families have removed and their present whereabouts are unknown.</i>		
(d)	Particulars of any such cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	None
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

During the year the Council considered the question of purchasing a number of large vacant houses in the Borough in order to relieve the overcrowding caused by families consisting of eight or more persons.

After a survey of these houses it was decided that this method would be unsuitable.

At the close of the year the question of building a number of five and six bedroom houses in pairs with houses containing one and two bedrooms of a type suitable for subsequent conversion if necessary into houses containing three and four bedrooms was being considered.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Thirteen houses were dealt with under this heading during the year. In five cases an undertaking was accepted by the Council that the houses would not again be used for human habitation. In the remaining 8 dwellings demolition orders were made.

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Three Clearance Areas were represented during the year involving a total of nine houses. Subsequently two of them were withdrawn and represented as individually unfit houses.

The following table is a complete record of the Housing Programme carried out since the adoption of the revised programme in October, 1933, up to the end of 1938 :—

Position of Houses in Clearance Areas at 31st December, 1938.

Order No.	Premises.	No. of Houses	Persons to be displaced	Date Represented	Date of Confirmation	Result
2	Greys Cottage and No. 3 Coleman Sq., 40 and 42, Whapload Road	4	4	28/5/34	30/3/35	Demolished June, 1935.
3	1 and 2 Maltster's Score	2	14	28/5/34	30/3/35	Demolished September, 1936.
4	32-38, Anguish Street	5	23	3/9/34	1/4/35	Demolished May, 1936.
5	51, 53 and 55 Pakefield Street	3	12	26/2/35	2/9/35	Demolished May, 1936.
6	2, 4, and 6, Margarets Cottages, St. Margarets Road, Pakefield	3	13	26/2/35	30/8/35	Demolished May, 1936
7	52, 53 and 55 Pakefield Street	3	10	18/4/35		Not confirmed—Demolished September, 1935
8	1-7 Farrow's Yard and 10 and 11 Factory Court	9	33	11/7/35	12/3/36	No. 10 Factory Court demolished, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 Farrows Yard vacant. remaining houses [still occupied.
9	1 and 2 Beaumont Cottages	2	5	11/7/35	12/3/36	Demolished June 1938.
10	17, 18 and 19 Rant Score East and 44-52 Anguish Street	8	22	22/10/35	8/12/36	Withdrawn as Clearance Area and included in Redevelopment Area as Compulsory Pur. Order No. 1.
11	48-52a Whapload Road	4	20	22/10/35	8/12/36	do C. Pur. O. No. 2
12	3-7 Lincoln's Buildings, 9 East St. and 30, 32 and 34, Whapload Road	9	33	22/10/35	8/12/36	do C. Pur. O. No. 3
13	19, 21 and 23 Anguish Street	3	9	22/10/35	8/12/36	do C. Pur. O. No. 4
14	1 and 2 Herring Fishery Score	2	5	22/10/35	20/10/36	Demolished August, 1938.
15	1-3 Bank Court and 14 St. Peter's Street	4	11	25/11/35	28/9/36	Demolished September, 1937.
16	12-16 Chapel Street	5	11	25/11/35	28/9/36	Houses vacant
17	5-19 Whitehorse Street	8	33	25/11/35	28/9/36	Demolished December, 1938
18	1-4 Bishop's Buildings, Mariners Street	4	15	25/11/35	28/9/36	Nos. 2 and 3 vacant. 1 and 4 still occupied
19	1-4 Barrett's Buildings, Melbourne Road	4	12	25/11/35	20/10/36	No. 4 vacant. 1, 2, and 3 still occupied.
20	75, 77 and 79 Crown Street	3	7	25/11/35	28/9/36	Demolished November, 1936
21	6 and 11 Nobb's Buildings, Whapload Road	2	5	25/11/35	28/9/36	Houses still occupied
22	5, 7, 9, 11 Spurgeon Street	4	18	25/11/35	8/12/36	Withdrawn as Clearance Area and included in Redevelopment Area as Compulsory Pur. Order No. 5
23	1-7 Cook's Buildings, Whapload Road	7	27	25/11/35	28/9/36	Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6 vacant. 3, 5 and 7 still occupied
24	1 and 2 Frost's Alley Score	2	4	25/11/35	28/9/36	Demolished August, 1938.
25	3 and 4 Frost's Alley Score	2	8	25/11/35	28/9/36	Demolished June, 1938.
26	1-4 Horn Hill	4	12	25/11/35	28/9/36	Demolished June, 1938.
27	13-17 Marsh Road	5	8	17/12/35		Property demolished as a result of informal action.
28	1-5 Sparham's Buildings, Whapload Road	5	20	24/2/36	8/12/36	Nos. 1 and 2 still occupied. 3, 4, and 5 vacant. Clearance Order not confirmed as property is owned by Council. Demolished June, 1938.
29	5-16 Lighthouse Score	12	26	24/2/36		No. 1 still occupied. 2 and 3 vacant.
30	1-3 Holly Cottages, Holly Road	3	6	24/2/36	6/10/36	Houses vacant.
31	1-10 Raglan Cottages, Raglan Street	10	36	22/4/36	7/1/37	
32	1-4 Infirmary Court	4	8	22/4/36	7/1/37	Demolished June, 1938.
33	16, 17, 18, 20 and 21 St Margaret's Plain	5	11	22/4/36	7/1/37	Demolished August, 1938.
34	19, 19a and 21 Dove Street	3	13	22/4/36	7/1/37	Houses still occupied.
35	3 and 4 rear of 136 Clapham Road	2	8	18/1/38	21/10/38	Houses still occupied.
36	1-5 Danish Cottages, Police Station Road	5	19	18/1/38	—	Not confirmed. Represented as individually unfit 5/12/38.
37	2 Beach Street and 21 Pakefield Street	2	7	25/3/38	—	Not confirmed. Represented as individually unfit 29/11/38.

Position of Individually Unfit Houses at 31st December, 1938.

Situation.	No. of Houses.	No. of occupants.	Date Represented	Remarks
Stone Cottage, Mariner's Street	1	1	30/3/31	Demolished 27/4/31.
38 Laundry Lane	1	6	20/2/32	Demolished 10/5/32.
1 and 2 Crane Cottages, Belvedere Road	2	2		Undertaking by Owner not to relet.
2a Spurgeon Street	1	1	2/4/33	Demolished May, 1933.
Rear 24 Marine Parade	1	—		Undertaking by Owner not to relet.
13 Wood's Loke	1	4	31/1/32	do.
Wooden Structure, Nelson Road	1	6	11/12/31	do.
Rear Lauriston Cottage, Hall Road	1	6	29/11/32	do.
Rear 40 Raglan Street	1	4	30/8/31	do.
1 Chapel Yard	part	8		
30a Alma Road	1	—	29/5/34	Demolished 14/12/34.
51 Mariner's Street	1	2	26/7/34	Undertaking by Owner not to relet.
1, 2 and 3 Scarle's Buildings, Whapload Road	1	—	26/7/34	Merged into 50 Mariner's Street.
Houseboat, Crisps' Creek	3	17	30/7/34	Demolished September, 1935.
11a St. Peter's Street	1	1	30/10/34	Demolished April, 1935.
4, 5 and 6 Scarle's Buildings	1	—		Undertaking by Owner not to relet.
Rear 20 High Street	3	13	23/9/35	Demolished.
89 Whapload Road	1	3	23/6/36	Undertaking by Owner not to relet.
Flat over Norton's Garage, Hervey Street	1	4	23/6/36	do.
Clemence Cottage, rear 51 Southwell Road	1	6	23/6/36	do.
13, 14 and 15 Scarle's Buildings	1	7	23/6/36	do.
7, 8 and 9 Scarle's Buildings	3	16	23/1/36	Houses vacant but not yet demolished.
69a Crown Street	3	16	6/10/37	Nos. 7 and 9 vacant, No. 8 still occupied.
140 St. Peter's Street	1	—	6/10/37	Undertaking by Owner not to relet.
Rose Cottage rear Clapham Road	part	7	6/10/37	do.
10, 11 and 12 Scarle's Buildings	1	2	14/12/37	House still occupied.
2 Beach Street	3	19	24/10/38	Houses still occupied.
21 Pakefield Street	1	—	29/11/38	Vacant not yet demolished.
23 Pakefield Street	1	7	29/11/38	House still occupied.
1 to 5 Danish Cottages, Police Station Road	1	—	29/11/38	Vacant not yet demolished.
1 and 2 Gladstone Villas, rear Bevan Street	5	19	5/12/38	Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 vacant, No. 2 still occupied.
	2	8	17/12/38	taking by Owner not to relet.
				Houses vacant not yet demolished.
	45	179		
	and 2 part houses.			

LOWESTOFT REDEVELOPMENT AREA No. 1.

Further progress with reference to the above area was made during the year. After the proposals as to the redevelopment were confirmed in 1937, the Council made an order for the compulsory purchase of properties in the area which were required for the purpose of redevelopment.

Objections to the purchase were made in practically all cases and an inquiry was subsequently held by the Ministry of Health on the 26th and 27th October, 1938.

In the report of the Ministry Inspector, received in April, 1939, the representations regarding unfit houses in the area were substantially confirmed.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies.

MILK SUPPLY.

The following is a list of dairymen on the register during 1938 :—

Cowkeepers producing outside Lowestoft area but retailing within area	29
Cowkeepers producing and retailing in Lowestoft area	12
Retailers of bottled milk only	60
Number of dairy premises	45
	<hr/>
	146

The sale of milk from small general shops, even though sold in the un-opened vessels in which it is received, cannot be regarded as really satisfactory, as often the means of storage is unsuitable. Considerable supervision also is necessary to see that the bottles are kept closed, as in the poorer districts of the town there is often a call for a less quantity of milk than one pint or even half-a-pint.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926, AND THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936 AND 1938.

Number of samples taken for bacterial content ..	13
Number of samples taken for tubercle bacilli	

Two producer retailers are licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk. There are also three holders of supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk. Sampling under this heading is in the hands of the East Suffolk County Council.

One wholesale producer and retailer and five retail dairies were licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk during the year. The thirteen samples taken during the year all proved satisfactory.

MEAT.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 16 private slaughterhouses in the Borough, two of which are registered and 14 licensed. 2,401 visits were paid to these premises by the Inspectors during the year.

There is no public abattoir in the Borough ; at the same time the butchers do everything in their power to co-operate with the Public Health Department so that this work is carried out satisfactorily.

During the year 2,438 carcasses were inspected. The total amount of meat condemned as unsound and unfit for food amounted to 13,969 lbs, of which 12,292 lbs. or 87.99% was tubercular.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	1140	26	16	487	769
All diseases except Tuberculosis— Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	1	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	1	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuberculosis	3.86	7.7	—	.21	.39
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	1	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	224	15	—	—	34
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	19.74	61.54	—	—	4.68

It is estimated that approximately 80% of pork is slaughtered outside the Borough.

249 visits were paid in respect of the retail sale of meat.

There is no scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, in force in the Borough.

OTHER FOODS.

Other articles found unfit for human consumption and accordingly condemned, were as follows :—

	LEBS.
Legs of Pork	711
Cooked Ham (tinned)	96
Bacon trimmings	345
Smoked Bacon	7
Corned Beef (tinned)	28
Chilled Beef (imported).. .. .	45
Suet (imported)	40
Poultry (imported)	530
Frozen Eggs	147
Fish	1452
	<hr/>
	3401 lbs.
	<hr/>

Ice Cream.

The Lowestoft Corporation Act of 1934 provides among other things, for the registration of manufacturers, vendors, merchants and dealers in ice cream and similar commodities within the Borough.

These additional powers have proved very helpful in controlling the manufacture and sale of this article and also in obtaining accurate information as to the number of people dealing in it.

114 persons are registered to deal in this commodity.

One hundred and fifty-four inspections were made of premises and barrows.

No action was found to be necessary.

Bakehouses.

There are 41 Bakehouses in the Borough. Very few are modern in type, but they are all clean and without gross errors. Seventy-two inspections were made of these premises.

Ten notices were served with respect to various defects during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

The Authority is the County Council, but by agreement the Act is administered by the Local Authority, and samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspectors.

During the year 150 formal samples were taken under the Act.

Six samples of milk, of which three were repeat samples taken in consequence of previous adverse reports, were non-genuine and information was forwarded to the East Suffolk County Council as the milk in each instance was from farms outside the area of the Borough.

One further sample of milk was also non-genuine and after interviewing the Producer it was concluded that the result was due to non-bulking of the total supply.

One sample of Ginger wine proved on analysis to contain 634 parts per million of Benzoic Acid, i.e. 34 parts per million in excess of the maximum amount permitted under the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925.

The Wholesaler was interviewed and it was learned that only a small supply of this wine had been sent out. Steps were taken immediately to recover as much as possible and eventually practically the whole supply was returned. Precautions were at once taken by the firm concerned to ensure that there would be no recurrence of such an error.

In view of the fact that their past record had been consistently good the Council decided that a warning would meet the case.

Informal Sampling of Milk.

Examinations of 110 informal samples of milk were carried out by the staff of the department, with the Gerber outfit.

Forty samples were found to be deficient in fat varying from 3% to 40%.

This figure would appear to be abnormally high, but it is largely explained by the fact that 29 of the 40 samples were repeat examinations of the milk from five producers.

It is the usual procedure on getting an adverse report of a sample taken from a retailer to obtain further samples from the producer and should these again prove to be below the standard, the producer is informed and invited to discuss the matter with a view to effecting an improvement in the quality of the milk.

Samples are then regularly taken to prove that definite attempts are being made to this end.

These measures, I think it may be claimed, have met with success.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

Nine samples of milk were examined by animal inoculation for the presence of tubercle bacilli, all of which were from herds outside the Borough, with the exception of one.

PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923 AND 1927.

One sample was taken, which complied with the declaration on the label.

PUBLIC HEALTH (DRIED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923 AND 1927.

No action taken.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The arrangements for obtaining such are unchanged.

NUTRITION.

The importance of increasing the public knowledge on the essentials of adequate nutrition, especially for children, is always kept in mind by the local health department. The diffusion of such knowledge forms a considerable proportion of the work of infant welfare centres, school clinics, and the home visiting by health visitors.

During the inauguration of the Milk in Schools Scheme in the Borough during 1937 considerable publicity was given to the importance of fresh milk in the diet of the school child. This work has been continued by means of posters and talks by teachers and school nurses.

SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

Effort is made by inquiry to secure that all shell-fish marketed in the district is derived from layings known to be under the supervision of other sanitary authorities.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

The following diseases were notifiable in the Borough of Lowestoft at the end of the year :—

Smallpox
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup
Erysipelas
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid Fever)
Typhus Fever
Relapsing Fever
Tuberculosis (all forms)
Ophthalmia neonatorum
Cerebro-spinal fever
Acute poliomyelitis
Acute polioencephalitis
Encephalitis lethargica
Acute Primary Pneumonia
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia
Puerperal Pyrexia
Cholera
Yellow Fever
Dysentery
Malaria
Trench Fever
Food Poisoning (Under Lowestoft Corporation Act, 1934)

Note—No other diseases were added to this list by the action of the Local Authority during the year, while by the Borough of Lowestoft (Measles, German Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations) Rescission Order, 1938, the diseases named ceased to be notifiable from the 8th March, 1938.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the three tables on the following page. The first table sets out the total notifications with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total deaths, the second table shows the distribution in age groups, and the third gives their incidence in the various wards in the Borough.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	64	54	—
Diphtheria	2	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	2	—
Pneumonia	37	1	23
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—
Erysipelas	29	2	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	3	—	1
Whooping Cough (under 5 yrs.)	55	—	5
Measles (under 5 yrs.)	—	2	—
Dysentery	10	—	—

Disease	Age Groups												Total Cases Notified
	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	2	5	6	8	15	15	6	4	3	—	—	64
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	—	—	—	12
Pneumonia	—	4	1	1	—	8	2	1	6	3	6	5	37
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	3	4	10	6	29
Ophthalmia neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	3
Whooping Cough (under 5)	5	6	13	14	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55
Measles (under 5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Totals	9	12	21	21	28	26	20	13	26	11	18	12	217

Disease	Wards					Total	Cases removed to Isolation Hospital
	North	South	East	West	Oulton Broad		
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	14	16	5	12	17	64	54
Diphtheria	—	—	—	2	—	2	1
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	1	—	1	—	—	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	2	5	3	12	2
Pneumonia	8	12	2	5	10	37	1
Erysipelas	7	8	5	4	5	29	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	2	1	—	3	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	1	—	—	—	3	—
Whooping Cough (under 5)	10	23	9	12	1	55	—
Measles (under 5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery	1	1	2	1	5	10	—
Totals	44	62	28	42	41	217	64

The following intimations were received from Head Teachers of elementary schools regarding the incidence of infectious disease among school children.

<i>Measles</i>	..	..	23
<i>Whooping Cough</i>	..	..	280
<i>Mumps</i>	..	..	556
<i>Chickenpox</i>	..	..	128
<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	..	..	39
<i>Diphtheria</i>	..	..	2
			1,028

The table below compares the notifications during 1938 of all infectious diseases, including Tuberculosis, with the figures for the five preceding years.

Disease Notified					Years					
					1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	16	65	100	21	11	2
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	82	337	60	43	70	64
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	25	17	32	43	46	37
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	9	22	19	15	25	29
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	11	10	6	7	8	12
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	6	2	9	4	4	3
The Enteric Fevers	..	..	..	..	6	1	98	8	11	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	1	1	—	—	1	3
Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	..	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	4	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	12	10
Measles (under 5 years)	..	..	..	..	—	64	—	37	74	—
Whooping Cough (under 5 years)	..	..	..	..	1	7	53	18	44	55
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	..	..	..	..	48	67	40	37	42	24
Do. (Other)	..	..	..	..	19	19	25	37	10	16

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES FOR THE YEAR.

Generally 1938 is to be noted for a relative freedom of the Borough from serious infectious disease, which is reflected by a low rate of admission to the borough isolation hospital. The most serious feature of the year was the continuation into the first quarter of 1938 of the epidemic prevalence of whooping cough noted at the end of 1937. This disease must now be counted locally as the infection most dangerous to child life, there occurring the unfortunate loss of five infant lives which was a factor in the unfavourable rise in the local infant mortality for the year.

The rather raised prevalence of streptococcal infection in the last quarter of 1937 continued during the first quarter of 1938, with frequent occurrence of mild scarlet fever or erysipelas, fortunately without any corresponding rise in the incidence of puerperal pyrexia. Since the first quarter streptococcal infection was low in the town and the expected rise in notification of scarlet fever during the autumnal quarter of the year was hardly evident.

Judged by notifications pneumococcal infection was mild in its power of attack throughout the year, notified cases being chiefly at the extremes of life. At the end of March to early April and during June to early July small groups—four and seven cases respectively—of young adult type occurred in the borough.

There follows notes on individual diseases :—

(a) *Scarlet Fever.*

During the year 64 notifications were received against 70 for the previous year, the quarterly distribution being 22, 16, 17 and 9. The largest figure for the first quarter reflected the continued prevalence of infection from the fourth quarter of 1937. The incidence at no time showed any particular focus on any school or locality throughout the year, and the degree of infectivity appeared low. The type of disease was mild and often atypical, though some tendency to relapse and to the development of rheumatic sequelae, especially in adults, was noted. These would suggest a connection between the causal infection of the scarlatinal syndrome and the small but definite increase in the incidence of both acute endocarditis and chorea recorded during the year by the school medical department.

Two groups of the infection are worthy of mention due to the interest of the probable source of infection.

In the first group three adolescents or adults had an onset of illness within a space of four days whose only common contact was the history of a common source of professional attendance during the previous few days. The professional attendant on interview was found to have had about ten days previously severe sore throat, without suspicion of rash or desquamation, and at once took advised precautions. Three more adult cases with identical contact occurred within a space of time equal to the incubation period and thereafter no further cases having any possible connection were notified. The rash in all six cases occurred on the 4th or 5th day from the possible time of infection giving a very constant incubation period of 72 to 84 hours. This group gives an excellent illustration of the established fact that the scarlatinal syndrome may occur by throat to throat infection from a case of streptococcal sore throat where no sign of typical scarlet fever has been exhibited. It is of interest to speculate on what might have been the disastrous consequences had the infecting person been a professional attendant on midwifery cases without the precautions of a gauze mask to the nose and mouth.

The other interesting group was of four cases occurring at fairly long time intervals in a residential home for boys. A long standing case of post scarlatinal otorrhoea resident in the home was thereafter admitted to hospital for radical mastoid operation and an attendant nurse developed scarlet. No further cases occurred in the home, though during the period there was noted a marked degree of tonsillar enlargement which was presumably a reaction to the streptococcal infection endemic at that time in the institution.

(b) *Diphtheria.*

The incidence of diphtheria was again exceptionally low, only two cases being notified in the whole year. Of these only one presented a clinical picture of diphtheria, and that of a mild type. It would appear that the infecting organism was practically absent from the area during the year or else almost completely dormant.

The high degree of immunity to this disease conferred on the child population of the area by its semi-epidemic prevalence in 1934-35 must now be fast diminishing and the longer the infection takes to reappear in the borough the sharper must the future reaction be, with proportionate severe or fatal casualties. It would seem that only when such occurrence takes place will parents consider taking advantage of the high degree of protection conferred by artificial immunisation, a measure available either privately or on application to the local health department. The recent unfortunate experience of this disease by a neighbouring borough should be sufficient warning of its insidious and dangerous nature to the child population.

(c) *Enteric Fevers.*

No typhoid fever occurred in the borough during the year but two cases of paratyphoid fever were notified, both in the third quarter of the year when the expectation of any such sporadic infection is highest. A third case notified on the 1st January, 1938, was included in the Registrar General's return for 1937. The cases were hospitalised and ran the simple clinical course of the illness. One whose initial symptoms had been of an acute gastro-enteritic nature had a relapse of a 14 day enteric type of fever without further abdominal symptoms. Other complications were absent and recovery was normal. There was no possible common contact or source of infection in the two cases nor could they be connected with the cases of the previous year. They must be ascribed therefore to sporadic infection in the borough following a raised carrier rate in the population since 1935. In this connection the effort was continued of endeavouring to ascertain the possible existence of a carrier state in contacts of cases or other suspected persons engaged in the handling of foodstuffs or other possible vehicles of infection. Such investigation is non-spectacular and often tedious, but by negative results dissolves suspicion and reassures confidence in the safety of any channels through which infection may be conveyed. Employers and public are generally found co-operative and willing to give every assistance.

(d) *Puerperal Pyrexia.*

Twelve cases of such were notified during the year, their quarterly distribution being 3, 4, 2 and 3. There was no connection found between any of the cases and no definite evidence of streptococcal infection in their causation, some being due to extra-genital inflammation and the remainder suggestive of endogenous or low bacterial infection. Only two cases were admitted from the Borough to the isolation hospital, while to seven of the cases nursed at home 142 visits were paid by the District Nursing Association. There were no deaths.

In any administrative control the Medical Officer of Health acts in his capacity as Medical Supervisor of Midwives for the area but in no case was it necessary to enforce suspension from practice or any action other than occasional directions for the disinfection of the midwife's person and equipment as a precautionary measure.

(e) *Erysipelas.*

Twenty-nine notifications of this disease were received. The quarterly distribution of cases was 18, 7, 3 and 1. The increased prevalence during the first quarter of the year followed on a high incidence in the last quarter of 1937 and coincided with other evidence of an increased presence of invasive streptococci during that quarter. Only two cases were admitted for treatment to the isolation hospital.

(f) *Pneumonia.*

Thirty-seven cases were notified against a figure of 46 for 1937, the quarterly distribution being 12, 13, 6 and 6. The greatest incidence again occurred during the extremes of life and there was no suggestion of any influenzal element in their causation. There occurred however at the beginning of April and in June and early July two groups, containing 4 and 7 cases, of young adults suggesting small outbursts of the Summer Type of pneumonia affecting such age group. Below is summarised the notified cases and registered deaths from pneumonia during the last five years.

		1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Number of Cases	..	17	32	43	46	37
Number of Deaths	..	18	22	24	28	23

From the ratio of deaths to notified cases the conclusion may be drawn that notification of pneumonia is far from complete.

(g) *Measles and Whooping Cough.*

The first child under 5 years in a family had been notifiable in the borough since 1926, but owing to its qualified nature observation of notification had been extremely irregular. In addition information obtained from head teachers has been found to give much more accurate and rapid acquaintance with the prevalence of these infections in the district. By the Borough of Lowestoft (Measles, German Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations) Rescission Order, 1938, notification of such infections was rescinded from 8th March, 1938. The following table gives the notifications received of cases in children under 5 years and the deaths of all children from these infections during the last five years.

<i>Measles</i> :—		1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Notifications	..	64	—	37	74	—
Deaths	..	6	—	1	—	—

Whooping Cough :—

Notifications	..	7	53	18	44	55
Deaths	..	1	3	—	3	5

Measles was practically absent from the borough during 1938, this infection having a two yearly periodicity and 1938 being an interval year.

The attack of whooping cough, prevalent in the child population at the end of 1937, continued during the early months of 1938 and caused the loss of five infant lives, three under the age of one year. This infection must now be looked upon as the most dangerous to child life in the borough and probably also as the largest causal factor of permanent chest disease in later life. Due to its insidious onset the illness is seldom recognised until the damage by infection of the infant population of a family is done. Children of school age can seldom escape this ailment but it is towards younger children possessing narrow and more delicate bronchial tubes that the danger to life or of permanent lung damage is directed. In future epidemics something more may be accomplished by affording warnings and guidance through schools to parents possessing other children of more tender age.

Little or no advantage has been taken of the offer of admission of such cases to the Isolation Hospital for skilled nursing where home conditions are unsatisfactory. Arrangements continue available for assistance in home nursing by the staff of the District Nursing Association.

(l) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases were notified, again a low annual figure for the borough. There was no connection between the cases, all of whom were mild and treated at home. To two of them 20 nursing visits were paid by the staff of the District Nursing Association.

(i) Dysentery.

Ten cases of this infection, notified in January, formed a residuum of the semi-epidemic prevalence of a mild form of this disease during December 1937, which was fully commented upon in the last annual report.

Borough Isolation Hospital.

The following table shows the number and nature of the cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year from the borough and from outside authorities :—

Disease	Admitted from area of borough	Admitted from other authorities
Scarlet fever.. ..	54	16
Diphtheria	2	2
Cases for observation ..	11	2
Paratyphoid	3	—
Erysipelas	2	1
Puerperal Sepsis	2	1
Infants with mother ..	2	1
Measles	1	6
Mumps	1	2
Rubella	1	—
Lobar Pneumonia	1	—
	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 31

The arrangement for the hospitalisation of infectious diseases from a considerable area of East Suffolk County came into operation on 1st April, 1938. Despite such increased collecting area the number of 111 admissions has been little more than the figure for 1937, while the admissions from the borough area were reduced from 99 to 80. These figures reflect the low incidence of serious infectious disease in the area during the year.

The number of inpatient days was 3510, the average daily number of inpatients being 9.6. No deaths occurred during the year and there were 11 patients remaining in hospital on the last day of the year.

Isolation Policy.

In diseases such as diphtheria and paratyphoid fever, where hospital treatment is equal to if not more important than isolation, every effort is made to obtain the admission of cases to hospital. All such were admitted during the year.

Of 64 scarlet fever notifications in the borough it will be seen that 54 were admitted to the hospital. Every effort is made in this disease to encourage home nursing where reasonable facilities for isolation exist, but the extensive development of such is unlikely to be achieved in an area where many of the population are engaged in public service or in trades involving the handling and preparation of food, and where working class housing conditions often prevent any effective home isolation. It would appear that much public education together with some relaxation of the rules of public bodies towards this at present mild infection will have to occur before the needlessly large proportion of cases admitted to isolation hospital is reduced.

The period of stay in uncomplicated cases continued at four weeks and the great majority of cases were discharged at the end of such period.

The hospital accommodation can be used to its greatest advantage in the isolation of observation cases, as for example severe streptococcal throats in members of the staffs of institutions caring for surgical and obstetric cases ; also for certain non-notifiable diseases, particularly from institutions or the port sanitary district ; and for serious cases of measles and whooping cough where facilities are not available for efficient home nursing, either from acute poverty or from other reasons. The completion of the projected cubicle block will greatly increase facilities for the treatment of the above cases.

In scarlet fever cases serum treatment continued to be used where any moderate severity or anginose condition justified such, but the type of disease met with was generally fairly mild throughout the year.

Issue of Antitoxic Sera.

For the use of private practitioners a supply of such for treatment continues to be available at the Health Department and at the Isolation Hospital. During the year two packages of diphtheria antitoxin were issued and one phial of tetanus antitoxin. Practitioners are again urged to give adequate doses of antitoxin in all cases of suspected clinical diphtheria unless where immediately admitted to the isolation hospital for observation. Their attention is drawn to the fact that the time period lost in waiting for the result of a swab is all-important in treatment and also that an initial negative result is not infrequently obtained from a dangerous case of clinical diphtheria.

Artificial Immunisation.

The nursing and domestic staff at the isolation hospital continue to be tested for susceptibility to diphtheria and, where necessary, immunized by three doses of T.A.F. The nursing staff are also protected against enteric infection by T.A.B. inoculation.

Facilities for inoculation against diphtheria also continues to be available free to the general public at Connaught House Centre, the immunising agent in use being T.A.F. Only four pre-school children and three school children took advantage of the measure during the year. In the present epidemiological situation of diphtheria incidence in the borough it would appear likely that very poor results would be obtained at present from any increased effort to secure greater acceptance of this really very valuable measure. Probably only an epidemic would convince the community that such is the only measure at present available which assures almost complete protection for the child population against this potentially dangerous disease at a minimum expense and inconvenience.

State of Acceptance of Vaccination in the Borough.

The figures afforded through the courtesy of the Vaccination Officer show a net percentage of children successfully vaccinated of only 8.19, and excluding those who died unvaccinated a percentage

of 8.38, a new low record for the area. The parallel decline throughout the country shows a highly unprotected state of the community which would give cause for great alarm if smallpox infection were introduced.

Prevention of Blindness.

No further action was taken during the year under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Particulars of such for the area are given in the following table :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5-	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	1
15-	2	3	2	1	2	3	—	—
25-	3	5	1	—	3	2	—	—
35-	2	3	—	—	1	2	—	—
45-	1	3	—	—	2	3	—	—
55-	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	8	16	9	7	9	11	—	1

The ward distribution of the cases notified during the year was as follows :—

				North	South	East	West	Oulton Broad	Total
Respiratory .. ..	..	..		4	8	5	6	1	24
Non-respiratory ..	..	..		5	3	1	3	4	16
									40

The above cases include both primary cases notified during the year and cases coming to the knowledge of this department otherwise than by notification. The table on page 51 shows the number of such notifications for the preceding five years.

The death rate for respiratory tuberculosis in the Borough was 0.45 per thousand population, and for other forms of tuberculosis 0.02 per thousand. Such figures continue below the average for England and Wales (0.63), and again show a considerable decline on the figures for previous years. (See table on Deaths from Tuberculosis page 18). Actually there has occurred in the last few years a quiet and unspectacular fall in such deaths to a rate less than half the average annual rate for the borough during the decade 1921-30.

The number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respiratory	50	47	97
Non-Respiratory ..	33	24	57

Of the 21 total tuberculosis deaths during the year two occurred in unnotified cases. The efficiency of notification of tuberculosis in the area is, however, fairly satisfactory and there is no evidence to suggest any wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

No action was required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

DISINFECTION

Disinfection continues to be carried out, without charge, in all cases of notifiable infectious diseases and also after removal or death of tuberculosis patients ; in addition, on request, after cases of cancer disinfection of bedding is carried out ; also for certain other conditions on payment of a small fee.

Home disinfection is carried out by formalin fumigation or spraying, while bedding and articles of clothing are treated by high pressure steam disinfection at the Borough Isolation Hospital.

During the year 179 rooms were disinfected after infectious disease, and 31 after verminous conditions, while the number of articles dealt with at the Isolation Hospital was as follows :—

Number of articles disinfected	2,197
Number of articles destroyed at the request of owners	69
Number of books from infectious houses detained	12

Disinfection has probably a certain value but at times undue reliance may be placed upon it to the neglect of the highest methods which must always be the use of soap and water and the admission of sunshine and fresh air. It must be remembered that suspicion in the past fell upon such things as library books before proof existed that the causative organisms of disease are carried and spread in many cases by healthy individuals (termed “ carriers ”), who themselves may never show any evidence of the disease.

SECTION G.

MISCELLANEOUS

COST OF HEALTH SERVICES

From the figures supplied by the Borough Treasurer the net cost of the various Public Health Services in Lowestoft for the year ended 31st March, 1938, was as follows:—

	<i>Pence per £ :</i>
General expenses of Health Department	0.74
Sewers and sewage disposal	9.73
Refuse removal and disposal	11.208
Public conveniences	0.473
Isolation Hospital	3.009
Ambulance	0.835
Mortuary	0.05
Contagious diseases of animals	0.036
Port Health Authority	0.235
Food and Drugs Act	0.13
Fountains and troughs	0.014
Tuberculosis Order, 1925	—
Meteorological	0.063
Joint Smallpox Hospital	—
Maternity and Child Welfare	2.065
Salaries	0.99
Total Health Services	<u>29.578</u>

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

A very considerable volume of work has fallen upon the Health Department during the year in the recruitment of volunteers for the A.R.P. Casualty Service. Organisation of training of first aid posts and parties and of ambulance transport for the area of the borough has also devolved upon the medical officer of the local authority. In addition the medical examination of all recruits to the Auxiliary Fire Service has been included in his duties. together with the arrangements for the instruction of wardens in elementary first aid.

SECTION H.

LOWESTOFT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Annual Report for the Year 1938.

STAFF :*Port Medical Officer :*

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Deputy Port Medical Officer :

L. GIBSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Port Health Inspectors :

A. ISHERWOOD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat & Foods Inspector

W. HAWORTH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat & Foods Inspector

Clerks :

Miss C. E. ABBOTT

R. C. ROBINSON

L. V. BAILEY

Rat Catcher :

E. ANSDELL

The Staff in each case also carry out the work of the Public Health Department of the Urban Sanitary Authority.

Offices :

CUSTOM HOUSE BUILDINGS, NORTH QUAY, LOWESTOFT

AND

123, HIGH STREET, LOWESTOFT. (TELEPHONE : LOWESTOFT 782).

I.—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1938.

TABLE A.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be Defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
Foreign							
Steamers	78	31,979	1	28	1	—	—
*Motor	10	3,598	—	7	—	—	—
Sailing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
†Fishing	145	5,520	—	2	—	—	—
Total Foreign	233	41,097	1	37	1	—	—
Coastwise							
Steamers	530	50,600	—	5	1	—	—
*Motor	73	7,597	—	4	—	—	—
Sailing	12	5,115	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	8,919	353,344	12	102	2	2	—
Total Coastwise	9,534	416,656	12	111	3	2	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise	9,767	457,753	13	148	4	2	—

*Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

†Includes 120 British vessels from foreign ports.

II.—CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT

TABLE B.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING THE YEAR

No. of Passengers	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	Transmigrants
Inwards	1	nil	nil	nil
Outwards	1	nil	nil	nil

There is no real passenger traffic at this port, which is not approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC

Principal Imports :—

Coal, timber, petroleum, ice and ships' stores, salt, granite, cement, tiles, peas, barley, potatoes and phosphates.

Principal Exports :—

Fish.

(c) FOREIGN PORTS FROM WHICH VESSELS ARRIVE

Altona, Archangel, Bordeaux, Christiansand, Copenhagen, Cuxhaven, Danzig, Emden, Esbjerg, Ghent, Gdynia, Gronigen, Hamburg, Jacobstad, Langsten, Leningrad, Memel, Namsos, Onega, and Torrevieja.

III.—WATER SUPPLY

There has been no change in the arrangements for such described in the 1937 report.

IV.—PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933

There has been no change during the year in the arrangements under the above, which were fully described in the 1937 report.

TABLE C.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS LANDED FROM VESSELS

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned	Total No. of Cases for previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
Para-Typhoid B	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2
Influenza	—	2	2	18
Measles	—	—	—	—

TABLE D.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS OCCURRING ON VESSELS DURING THE VOYAGE BUT DISPOSED OF PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred on any vessel during its voyage to this Port.

CASES OF SICKNESS ENTERING THE PORT DURING 1938

Thirteen cases of sickness were examined by the Port Medical Officer or his Deputy in vessels entering the port. After the exclusion of any possibility of infectious disease, appropriate action was advised for the disposal of each case for treatment either at home or in hospital.

V.—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS

(1) *Steps taken for detection of rodent plague :—*

(a) *In ships in the port.*

The Masters of vessels are periodically questioned as to the finding of any unusual number of dead rats.

(b) *On quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the port.* The Port Health Inspectors, the Council's rat catcher and the Railway Company's rat catcher note any unusual mortality among rats.

(2) *Measures taken to prevent the passing of rats between ships and the shore.*

Rat guards are available for use in the case of ships coming from an infected or suspected port. During the year there was no occasion to use these.

(3) *Methods of deratization of :—*

(a) *Ships.*

This is done by poisoning, trapping and sulphur fumigation.

(b) *Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays.*

By poisoning or trapping.

(4) *Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore.*

Systematic inspections are made of all vessels for evidence of the presence of rats, such as damage, destruction of food and the presence of rat droppings.

(5) *Rat-proofing.*

(a) *To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, etc., rat-proof?*

The docks themselves are largely constructed of concrete and hence are to a very great extent rat-proof.

The majority of the wharves and warehouses cannot be considered rat-proof, but such premises, which are the property of the London and North Eastern Railway Company, are systematically inspected by the Company's rat catcher.

(b) *Action taken to extend rat-proofing.*(i) *In ships.*

Masters of vessels are requested to store all foodstuffs, etc., in metal containers and to take steps that no unused foodstuffs or other rubbish is allowed to accumulate in the ship. They are also requested to keep down the number of their rats by trapping and poisoning.

(ii) *On shore.*

In the past wood has been largely used in the construction of the docks and wharves; as this deteriorates the London and North Eastern Railway Company are gradually replacing it with concrete. Sheets of zinc or iron are driven down to the footings of various buildings in attempts to render these rat-proof.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR

TABLE E.
(1) ON VESSELS.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
Black	12	24	120	24	288	72	—	60	48	—	12	—	660
Brown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Species not recorded	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Examined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infected with plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The above figures are of necessity estimated due to boats leaving for sea immediately after disinfestation work had been carried out.

During the year the corporation rat catcher carried out disinfestation by means of poisoning and trapping on 55 boats, this work entailing 97 visits.

TABLE F.

(2) IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES.

It is regretted that again no figures are available of the number or species of rats destroyed in the docks, quays, wharves and warehouses despite urgent representations by the Port Health Authority during the year to the London and North Eastern Railway Company. The company has ownership of all the dock premises and warehouses, employing their own rat catcher who attends at the docks for at least two days in each month. The Company reports that "in view of the fact that the method of destruction is mainly by poison it is not practicable to keep such a record."

TABLE G.

No Plague “ Infected ” or “ Suspected ” Vessels or Vessels from Plague Infected Ports arrived in the Port during the year.

TABLE H.

Lowestoft is not a port approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratization Certificates.

VI.—HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES

TABLE J.

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES

Nationality of Vessel	Number inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	111	nil	nil	2
Other nations	37	nil	nil	2

VII.—FOOD INSPECTION

- (1) *Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations, 1925 (amended 1933), the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 (amended 1926 and 1927) and the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.*

With the exception of fish there is very little importation of food to the port.

According to the figures given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the weight and values of fish landed at Lowestoft during the year were as follows :—

	Quantity (cwts.)	Value (£)
Trawl Fish	146,059	293,265
Herrings	859,755	261,089
Mackerel	642	341
Sprats	9,281	4,739
By Foreign Vessels	245	459
	<u>1,015,982</u>	<u>559,893</u>

Shellfish	No.	Quantity (cwts.)	Value (£)
Norway lobsters ..		110	154
Queens and Escallops ..		12	12
Whelks ..		1	1
Shrimps ..		350	660
Lobsters ..	2,259	—	145
Crabs ..	850	—	3
			<hr/> 975 <hr/>

During the year 1,452 lb. of fish were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption.

(2) *Shell Fish*

There are no shell fish beds in this area.

(3) *Number of Samples of Food examined by :—*

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| (a) Bacteriologist. | Nil. |
| (b) Analyst. | Nil. |

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE
CONNAUGHT HOUSE.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Lowestoft.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Sixteenth Annual Report, which is a resumé of the work carried out during the year 1938.

Infection and Disinfection.

During the year 73 cases of infectious disease were inquired into.

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Para typhoid B	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

Information gained as a result of inquiry into these cases is submitted to the M.O.H. and dealt with according to his instructions.

In addition to the above cases, disinfection was carried out in 57 other cases of infectious disease. There were also 19 houses disinfested on account of their verminous condition.

Bakehouses.

There are forty-one bakehouses in the Borough.

Seventy-two inspections have been made during the year. Cleanliness and limewashing have been usually well maintained.

Ice Cream Premises.

The provision of the Lowestoft Corporation Act, 1934, provide for the registration of all manufacturers and dealers in ice-cream.

This power has enabled the department to exercise a better control of the sale of the commodity than in the past.

One hundred and fifty-four inspections were made of the 114 registered premises.

Factories and Workshops Acts.

Eight notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. 237 visits to factories, workshops and workplaces were made.

The following nuisances were discovered and dealt with:—

Want of cleanliness	.. .. .	3
Defective drains	.. .. .	6
Other nuisances	.. .. .	—
Sanitary Accommodation	{ Unsuitable or defective Not separate for sexes.. Insufficient	3
		—
		4

Slaughterhouses.

There are sixteen slaughterhouses in the Borough, two of which are registered and fourteen licensed. 2,401 visits have been made to these premises. The general cleanliness of the premises is good.

During the year 13,969 lbs. of meat was voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human food. Inspections were carried out in accordance with the terms of Memo 62 (Foods).

In addition to the five regular slaughtering days, when notice of intention to slaughter is not required to be sent to the Corporation, 221 notices have been received of intention to slaughter outside agreed hours.

Foods condemned.

During the year the following articles of food were found unfit for consumption and accordingly condemned:—

	Lbs.
Legs of Pork	711
Cooked Ham (tinned)	96
Bacon trimmings	345
Smoked Bacon.. .. .	7
Corned Beef (tinned)	28
Chilled Beef (imported)	45
Suet (imported)	40
Poultry (imported)	530
Frozen Eggs	147
Fish	1452
	<hr/>
	3,401 lbs.

Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.

Under this Act 9 samples of milk were taken during the year. None of these was reported to contain tubercle bacilli after animal inoculation.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 146 persons registered for the carrying on of such businesses.

Sixty of these are registered for the purpose of selling milk only in the unopened bottles in which it is received.

One hundred and ninety-four inspections have been made of the various premises, etc.

Sterilizing plants are fixed in practically every dairy in the Borough.

Stables.

Periodical visits have been made to these premises in order to minimize nuisances from accumulation of manure, refuse, etc., and to keep the places clean. Notice was served in one case.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

During the year 1,393 visits have been made under the above Act in the Urban and Port Sanitary Districts. It was found necessary to serve seven notices during the year to compel action under the Act. Almost invariably the work had been put in hand as a result of the visit of the Rat Officer.

The sanitary inspectors paid 261 visits to boats, business premises, etc., under the Act.

In addition, the Corporation employ a full-time Official Rat Catcher, and the following is a summary of the work carried out by him during the year :—

					No. of visits
Business Houses	..	..	..	..	851
Private Houses	..	..	..	..	184
Boats	..	..	..	..	97
Premises made Rat-proof	..	..	..	..	14

The methods employed are chiefly poisoning, trapping and the use of cyanogas, where the latter is advisable.

The docks, which are the property of the L. & N.E. Railway Company, are disinfested by their own official, who pays periodical visits during the year, while some of the boat-owning companies also employ their own men. No definite record as to this work is available.

Water Samples.

Eight samples of water were submitted, four each for chemical and bacteriological examinations from the public supply. One sample each for chemical and bacteriological examination was taken from a private well.

Those from the public supply were found to be satisfactory.

The well water also proved to be satisfactory.

Four samples of bath water, two from the salt water bath and two from the fresh water bath, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. The former proved to be satisfactory; the latter were not so satisfactory, and the attention of the department concerned was drawn to the matter.

Housing Inspections.

A total of 1,041 visits were made during the year in respect of housing defects under either the Public Health or the Housing Acts.

Two hundred and twenty houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action, and 84 houses after the service of statutory notices.

In three instances legal proceedings were taken against owners of property for failure to carry out works required by Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936—Sections 39 and 56 and in each instance the case was dismissed on payment of costs under the Probation of Offenders Act. The works were eventually carried out by the Council on undertakings given by the owners to pay the cost thereof.

Shop Acts, 1912-1936.

In addition to the provision of sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature, attention has been devoted to the closing of shops, in which connection a total of 555 visits have been made.

Legal proceedings were taken in four instances that occurred at the end of 1937 for selling goods after the hours permitted.

One defendant was fined 10/- including costs and the other three were each fined 5/- including costs.

Smoke Observations.

The Council has not adopted bye-laws under the Smoke (Abatement) Act, 1926, but there is a resolution to the effect that the emission of black smoke for a period of more than three consecutive minutes or a total of five minutes in a period of 30 minutes shall be considered a nuisance liable to be dealt with under the Public Health Acts. During the year five observations were taken.

In the event of the above times being exceeded, the manager of the firm has invariably been interviewed and, if possible, the fireman, efforts being made to interest both persons into the question of more careful stoking. Several improvements were carried out to furnaces where this was found necessary. Considerable improvement has been effected.

Petroleum Acts.

In addition to the statutory duties of the office, this work is also carried out by the sanitary inspectors. 108 premises are licensed for the storage of petroleum and carbide of calcium. The premises are periodically inspected. 107 visits were paid to these premises.

Hackney Carriages, Pleasure Boats, etc.

The sanitary inspector attends at the yearly inspection of such vehicles to see that the requirements of the bye-laws controlling the above are carried out.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two common lodging houses. Forty visits were paid to them in order to see that they were being properly conducted and complying with the Council's bye-laws. No further action was found to be necessary during the year.

Fried Fish Shops.

Such businesses are included in the list of offensive trades which may not be established without the consent of the Corporation.

There are 53 such premises in the Borough, to which 105 visits were made during the year. The businesses are usually well conducted and kept in a cleanly state.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 154.

Four instances of offences committed under the above Act and section by persons delivering articles to children under the age of 14 years whilst engaged in the collection of rags, old clothes, etc., occurred during the year.

Legal proceedings were taken against one offender who was fined £1 and 2/6 costs.

In each of the remaining instances legal proceedings could not be taken owing to the offenders giving a name and address which could not be traced for the serving of a summons.

Port Sanitary Authority.

1,364 inspections have been made by the sanitary inspectors during the twelve months under report, of which 148 were visits paid to vessels entering the port, the remainder being inspections of the fish docks, etc.

Tabulated record of sanitary work carried out during the year.

Informal Notices	.. .. .	270
Number of Statutory Notices served	.. ..	144
Total Number of Inspections and Re-Inspections		11,205
Number of Complaints dealt with	.. ..	270

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

The sanitary inspectors carry out the duties of taking samples under this Act on behalf of the East Suffolk County Council. Details will be found in Section E of the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. ISHERWOOD,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

